

THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, the Fine Arts, Music and the Drama.

No. 3186.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1888.

PRICE
THREEPENCE
REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER

BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—The FIRST MEETING of the SESSION 1888-89 will be held on **WEDNESDAY NEXT, November 21**, at 32, Sackville-street, Piccadilly. Chair to be taken at 8 P.M. Antiquities will be exhibited and the following Papers read:—

1. 'On the Relics and Memorials of William and Mary.' By H. S. CUMING, Esq., F.S.A. (Scott.)
 2. 'An Early British Cemetery, found at Dunmurry, Hants.' By JOSEPH STEVENS, Esq., M.R.C.P.L.
- W. de GRAY BIRCH, F.S.A. } Honorary
E. F. LOFTUS BROCK, F.S.A. } Secretaries.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE.—This Society will meet on **WEDNESDAY EVENING, the 21st inst.**, at 8 P.M., at the Rooms, 21, Doherty-street, St. James's Park, when a Paper will be read by **W. JOHN DIXON, Esq., M.A. LL.M.**, on 'Carlyle the Historian.'
E. GILBERT HIGHTON, M.A., Secretary.

ARISTOTELIAN SOCIETY, 22, Albemarle-street, W.—MONDAY, November 19th, at 8 P.M. Subject, 'The Growth and Progress of Moral Ideas,' by Mr. S. ALEXANDER, B.A.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY RECORD SOCIETY.

A MEETING will be held at the ROYAL INSTITUTION, Albemarle-street, W., on **TUESDAY, November 27**, at 3 o'clock. Chair to be taken by the Right Hon. the EARL of STRAFFORD, Lord Lieutenant and Viscount of Mid Essex; supported by His Grace the Duke of Westminster, K.G., the Lord Sars and Sir Francis Morley, K.C.B., W. R. L. Esq., F.S.A., W. J. Harpy, Esq., F.S.A., and others.

The attendance of all interested in the subject is requested.

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MONDAY EVENING, December 3rd.

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LITERATURE

The Life of Richard, Lord Westbury, formerly Lord High Chancellor, with Selections from his Correspondence. By Thomas Arthur Nash, B.A., Barrister-at-Law. 2 vols. (Bentley & Son.)

FIVE years ago a life of Lord Westbury was announced, and from time to time the announcement was repeated. Such a work has, therefore, been looked for with more than ordinary interest, and Mr. Nash, who began by taking up the memoir left unfinished by the late Mr. R. N. Kennard, and has eventually written a fresh one, has the advantage of the expectation which the announcement created. Lord Westbury died fifteen years ago, and in these days, when it is customary for a man to write and publish his own memoirs lest the profits should go to his successors rather than to himself, fifteen years seems a long time for an eminent man to be left without a biography. In the present instance, though the delay is explained, it is not to be regretted. Regret should rather be felt that the "Life" should have been written so soon.

The circumstances connected with Lord Westbury's retirement are the matters most interesting for his biographer, and it is hardly possible that any new light should be thrown upon them while so many of his colleagues and opponents are still engaged in public life. Mr. Nash is peculiarly reticent upon the question. Such reticence is commendable, and so is the highly successful effort of which Mr. Nash speaks to spare the susceptibility of persons still living. The public facts are well known, and upon those facts the judgment has been to the effect that Lord Westbury was, perhaps, rather hardly used, and that whatever errors he may have been guilty of his personal honour was not involved. But at the same time his memory has not been altogether cleared from suspicion, and it was hoped that this biography might contain something fresh from private sources. Another generation may learn from future memoirs whatever there is to be added to the case, but Mr. Nash has left it where it was.

Mr. Nash was not personally acquainted with Lord Westbury, but he has enjoyed the assistance of many who were, and he has had access to whatever papers and information the members of Lord West-

bury's family possessed. Naturally, therefore, he writes neither as a eulogist nor as an historian, but from the point of view of the family. It is, however, a sign of impartiality that the tone of his comments is, on the whole, apologetic. Apology, indeed, seems to be the only strain in which it is possible to compose any estimate of Lord Westbury. He was a puzzle to his contemporaries, and posterity is not likely to solve the riddle. The Master of Balliol in a letter to Mrs. Adamson Parker (which is one of the best passages in Mr. Nash's book) sums up his impressions of her father excellently:

"I do not pretend to have fathomed his rather inscrutable character; he seemed to be made up of opposite qualities. He would say the bitterest things, and yet to some of his friends he appeared to be one of the kindest of men. His rasping tongue aroused many enmities, and the witty attacks which he made on others were sometimes revenged by attacks of another kind directed against himself. One who knew him more than seventy years ago has told me that he had in early life the same sedate and imposing manner which was characteristic of him in later years. He had always cultivated self-control; it was the mask of a too great sensitiveness and weakness which he perceived in his own character. Notwithstanding his great experience of life, he was childishly ignorant of human nature. There were some other traits which were not easily explained in him. He was very industrious himself, and a great enemy to idleness in others; but he was wanting in force of character and continuous purpose. It would sometimes seem as if the troubles of his childhood and early life, which he fancifully exaggerated, had weighed too deeply on his mind, and that he determined from the first to be master of himself and of the world."

With the history and unfolding of such a character Mr. Nash has hardly attempted to cope; he has confessedly dealt succinctly with Lord Westbury's political life; and as either the private papers contain little of interest, or Mr. Nash has been over judicious in his selection from them, it is obvious that there is not much left for the composition of a satisfactory book. The biography is a respectable performance, but it is not lively. Mr. Nash has tried to lighten his story with some anecdotes and details (often introduced without much relevance) about Lord Westbury's love of sport. The anecdotes are mostly, if not all of them, in circulation. At a consultation he was twice interrupted by the solicitor's clerk correcting him about an immaterial point. The second interruption was too much for him, and he observed to the clerk in his silvery tones, "Will you have the goodness to go outside that door—and shut it?" When Attorney-General he was confronted with an opinion of his own in opposition to the course he was advising. He read it and said, "Well, it is a mystery to me how any one capable of penning such an opinion could have risen to the eminence I have the honour to enjoy."

"Lord Cranworth, before he became Lord Justice, had been for some years a Baron of the Exchequer, and when Lord Chancellor he used to sit continually with the Lords Justices for the purpose, it was said, of making himself better acquainted with the new procedure in Equity, of which he was comparatively ignorant. One day some one remarked to Bethell: 'I wonder why old Cranney always sits with the Lords Justices?' The caustic but humorous reply was: 'I take it to arise from a childish indisposition to be left alone in the dark!'"

One of the most characteristic stories of him is spoilt in Mr. Nash's narration. In his later life, when Lord Westbury was sitting regularly on the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, he met ex-Chief Justice Erle, and asked him why he did not attend. "For three very good and sufficient reasons," said Sir William Erle: "because I am old, because I am deaf, and because I am stupid." "Those are no impediments," said Lord Westbury: "— is very old, — is very deaf, and — is very stupid, and yet we four make an excellent court."

Of Lord Westbury's private life there is singularly little to relate. At the early age of fourteen he won a scholarship at Wadham, and from the age of seventeen he supported himself entirely. He was not a good letter writer, and the few stiff home letters printed by Mr. Nash are without interest. Lord Westbury always said that his ideas failed him in writing: it was in speaking that his thoughts came best, and long training developed what Mr. Frederic Harrison well calls "his instinctive genius for clear-cut phrases." The absence of intimate letters is ill supplied by the recollections of one or two of his friends. His early life at the bar is almost a blank. A characteristic account is given of his first piece of business, but it is only a story which Lord Westbury used to tell, and a successful barrister's story of his first brief is often helped by imagination. He had drawn some "exceptions to an answer" by the light of nature, not having seen any before, and he had to go before the Master to support them. The Master observed that he had never seen exceptions in that form. "Most probably not, sir," rejoined Bethell,

"but I will defy my learned friend or any one else to indicate any particular in which these exceptions fail to attain the object for which exceptions are designed."

His rise at the bar was rapid, and for a long period he held the lead. His political career was the career of a barrister on his way to the woolsack; he had rather an aversion to political life, and he has left no mark as a statesman. As a debater and a pilot of legal bills through committee he often succeeded admirably; his encounters with Mr. Gladstone and afterwards with Bishop Wilberforce, the two men whom he considered fit opponents, are remembered with delight by those who heard them; but even his apologist cannot conceal the fact that he was not altogether a satisfactory colleague. His learning and ability made him valuable, but he was wanting in judgment and tact. The most solid claim is to be made for him as a law reformer—not so much for what he accomplished as for what he initiated. The fusion of law and equity, the concentration of the Law Courts, the efforts of the Inns of Court to do something for the study of law, the revision of the statutes, were all urged by him, and he is entitled to a share of the credit of them. His unusual genius for symmetry led him to advocate a digest of the law with a view to the formation of a code, and when the thirty years have passed which are said to be required for the accomplishment of any legal reform, his ideas upon this subject may turn out to have been less visionary than they appeared in his lifetime. As a judge it must be said of

him that the reports of his decisions are generally good reading, and that some of them contain good law. At Lincoln's Inn his memory will belong preserved in legal anecdotes, and one at least of his witticisms has become a part of our language. Since Lord Campbell's 'Lives of the Chancellors' appeared every Lord Chancellor has been entitled to a biography; but if Mr. Nash's is the best that circumstances permit, few Chancellors could, for the present, have better dispensed with one than Lord Westbury.

Römisches Staatsrecht.—Dritte Band, Zweite Abtheilung. *Der Senat.* Von Theodor Mommsen. (Leipzig, Hirzel.)

WITH this volume Prof. Mommsen brings to a conclusion his great work on the Roman constitution, and scholars will gratefully applaud the vigour and perseverance which have enabled him thus to triumph over the difficulties placed in his way by advancing years and by multifarious occupations. That the volume should not be quite such attractive reading as some of those which preceded it was almost inevitable. The fact that many points of interest connected with the Senate had been already discussed in earlier portions of the work rendered a certain amount of repetition and of cross-reference unavoidable; nor is it possible to treat the Roman Senate with the same precision and exactitude as the Roman magistracy or assembly. Viewed from the standpoint of "Staatsrecht" proper, i. e., of the "law of the constitution," the Senate shrinks into comparative insignificance, while its enormous actual importance was for the most part derived from sources which lay, strictly speaking, outside the constitution, and belong rather to the domain of the historian than to that of the constitutional lawyer. The course which Prof. Mommsen has followed is probably the best under these circumstances. He has clearly pointed out the place assigned to the Senate by the constitution, and he has then contrasted with this the larger place which the Senate gradually acquired for itself in the actual work of government. With two exceptions, the appointment of the *interrex*, and the *patrum auctoritas*, the Senate has in theory but one function, that of "answering a question addressed to it by a qualified magistrate," and its answer "is nothing but a piece of advice which the questioner can follow or not as he chooses." But in fact throughout the greater part of the Republican period the advice has become a command, and it is the Senate which orders while the magistrate obeys. Yet the original and legal position was never quite lost sight of, and the principle that the Senate could only advise when asked governed its forms of procedure, even at the height of its greatness. Not less important than this contrast between its formal and its actual powers are the efforts made by the Senate, and especially in the third and second centuries B.C., to conceal or even get rid of its theoretical dependence on the magistrate, and thus as far as possible legitimize the supremacy which it had acquired.

So far Prof. Mommsen states the constitutional position of the Republican Senate with admirable clearness and accuracy, and

only on two points does he appear to be open to criticism. He rightly enough insists that the early patrician Senate exercised two prerogatives, those of appointing the *interrex* and of ratifying decisions of the assembly (*patrum auctoritas*), which stand apart from its purely consultative duties and belong to it of right. He sees, moreover, that the former prerogative was vested in the patrician Senate, not as being a council of advisers, but as representing the ancient ruling families, and as being consequently the rightful guardian of the *auspicia*, and the depositary of the *imperium*. But though he properly refuses to follow Willems in confusing the *patrum auctoritas* with the familiar *senatus auctoritas* of later times, he scarcely brings out with sufficient clearness the fact that this early right of ratification, which after 339 B.C. became a mere form, rested on precisely the same basis as the appointment of the *interrex*, and was connected with the same prehistoric aspect of the Senate as representing the chiefs, and as such possessing inalienable prerogatives of its own, not with the aspect which historically is the more familiar, that of a body of councillors freely chosen by the magistrate to assist him with their advice. Once more he fully recognizes that even at the height of its power the Senate's supremacy rested on no legal basis (p. 1024), and that strictly it still merely gave advice when consulted—advice which the magistrate was technically at liberty to abstain from asking, or to ignore when given. But he has not called sufficient attention to the fact that in this absence of legal right lay the weakness which paralyzed the Senate during the last century of the Republic as often as it found itself in collision with a vigorous and hostile magistrate, strong enough to disregard established custom and usage.

The volume opens with an account of the composition and procedure of the Senate, to which nearly two hundred pages are devoted. On the first head his views are in the main the same as those which he expressed long ago in the 'Römische Forschungen.' His hypothesis of an original Senate which was purely patrician may be frankly accepted, and is infinitely more probable than his kindred theory of a purely patrician *populus*. But that in this original Senate there was a formal representation of *curie* and *gentes* appears to us doubtful in the extreme. Roman tradition, Dr. Mommsen confesses, knows nothing of such a system: "in unserer Kunde ist davon nichts übergegangen." Nor do we understand on what evidence he bases the statement that "noch in geschichtlicher Zeit geben die dem Senat angehörigen Patricier ihre Vorschläge ab in der durch die drei Urgemeinden und deren Curien gegebenen Folge." He gives, indeed, a reference to the well-known passage in Festus, p. 246, where he still reads "curiatim"; but the passage to all appearance refers not to the order of giving *sententia*, but to the order of choice to be followed by the censors in the *lectio senatus*, nor can it refer only to patricians. On this point we are decidedly with Willems and with his reading "jurati." The admission of plebeians Mommsen dates with much probability from the earliest days of the Republic, and we agree with him in maintaining that the *conscripti* of the

formula "*patres conscripti*" were the plebeian members admitted by the magistrate, and in rejecting Willems's interpretation "assembled fathers." As to another closely connected question, the position of the *pedarii*, on which our author again joins issue with the Belgian scholar whom he has honoured by singling out for especial notice, we are unable to agree entirely with either side. It is impossible to explain the term otherwise than in connexion with the familiar "*pedibus ire in sententiam*," and Willems's theory that it implied the non-possession of the *sella curulis* is far-fetched and unnecessary. But we hold strongly with Willems that the *pedarii* never were a class of senators legally inferior to the rest, though their low position on the roll, by virtually depriving them of the chance of delivering their *sententia* orally, and confining them to a silent vote, placed them at an actual disadvantage as compared with *consulares* and *pretorii*. Prof. Mommsen allows that this is true of the Ciceronian age. But he maintains that in earlier times it was otherwise, and that the term originally denoted a distinct class of senators, viz., plebeians admitted "durch freie consularische und später censorische Lection," who were legally incapable of giving *sententia* and could only vote. Without discussing the question at length here, it may fairly be asked whether any such distinction as that which Mommsen draws between the *jus sententie* (Vorschlagsrecht) and the right to vote (*Stimmrecht*) ever existed in law, and, indeed, Mommsen himself admits that no such distinction is drawn in the phraseology of senatorial procedure. Is there, again, any evidence that at any time a man could be a senator and yet not possess the *jus sententie*, though he might possess this without being technically a senator? Lastly, is there any evidence that the term of *pedarius* ever bore any other meaning than that which Mommsen allows that it bore in post-Sullan times? It should also be noticed that the appearance in the 'Album Canonicum' (223 A.D.) of a class of *decuriones* styled *pedani* (= *pedarii*), whom Mommsen rightly identifies with the *decuriones* "qui nullo honore functi sunt" of the contemporary jurist Ulpian, does not really prove much. These later *pedani* belong to a time when the *decurionate* was hereditary, and are, no doubt, those who by birth were entitled to seats in the municipal senate, but who had not yet held any office, just as the *prætextati* represent those of the same class who were not yet of full age. But there is no evidence that these later *pedani* suffered under any legal disabilities as regards the *jus sententie*. Nor can any inferences be drawn either from Varro's *equites pedarii* or the later *judez pedaneus*, as, indeed, Willems has clearly shown.

The account given of the procedure in the Senate is, on the whole, the most successful and interesting part of the book. The author ably points out both the constant inconvenience caused by the difficulty of adapting rules of procedure intended for a purely consultative body to one which had become *de facto* administrative, and the repeated efforts made by the Senate as it grew stronger to obtain the control of its own procedure, and to reduce the magistrate to the level of a modern chairman. Thus

"*Senatus consultum*" supersedes "*decre-tum*"; and the more correct "*de senatus sententia*" is replaced by "*ex senatus consulto*," just as in England the older phrase "at the request of the Com-mons" gave way to the later "by the authority of Parliament." It is also pos-sible that the distinction which during the Ciceronian age existed in practice be-tween the formal voting ("*discessio*") and the taking of the *sententia* was not original, as Prof. Mommsen would have it, but that as the Senate gradually lost the character of a *consilium*, and assumed a quasi-legis-lative authority, the necessity was recognized of a more exact and precise method of de-termining the will of the majority. But to the last there is no technical phrase for "voting" as distinct from giving *sen-tentia*; nor, as Mommsen points out, is there any evidence that the "division" of the senators on this and that side of the house was followed by a counting of heads. The presiding magistrate declared, "*Hæc pars major videtur*" (=the ayes have it), but nothing more.

From its composition and procedure the author passes on to deal with "*die Com-petenz*" of the Senate, i.e., with the share it actually took in the government. But the limits of this "*Competenz*" cannot be legally fixed, and we must be content, as Prof. Mommsen is, with a simple enumeration of the administrative questions upon which by custom, and in a very few cases by law, its decision was invited by the magistrate. He endeavours, indeed, to establish a distinc-tion between (1) ordinary official acts which the magistrate could perform alone; (2) extraordinary acts, not requiring a modifica-tion of the constitution, on which the magis-trate was bound to get the opinion of the Senate; and (3) extraordinary acts involving a constitutional change, for which the sanc-tion of the assembly was necessary. But the distinction does not carry us very far. No doubt there were certain acts which the magistrate invariably performed alone, there were others which could not be performed except by the assembly, and, finally, there were a very few, e.g., the settlement of the consular *provincia* under the terms of the *Lex Sempronia*, which were by law reserved to the Senate; but a large de-batable ground is left, within which the custom of the time or the discretion of the individual magistrate determined whether any particular question should be settled by the magistrate or by the assembly or be referred to the Senate. Hence it is that, even in the period of unchallenged senatorial supremacy, the area covered by the Senate's activity sensibly shrinks and expands, while during the keen struggles of the last eighty years of the Republic the variations are start-ling. Under Cicero, in 63, the Senate is everything; under Cæsar, in 59, it is almost nothing. Some such explanation as this would, we venture to think, have made clearer the significance of the lengthy cata-logue of all that the Senate did in the various departments of the administration—a cata-logue which, valuable as it is, is necessarily somewhat tedious reading, and which we have no space here to criticize in detail.

It is a little disappointing to find that a chapter of some twenty pages at the end of the volume is all that Prof. Mommsen de-

votes to a general estimate of the position and functions of the Senate under the rule of the emperors. It is true that they are dealt with briefly and separately in earlier sections, and that in the second volume of the '*Staats-recht*' the relation of the *princeps* to the Senate is directly discussed. But all scholars would have been glad to have seen the twenty pages doubled, and such a picture drawn of the Imperial Senate as only Prof. Mommsen could draw. For the absence of such a picture neither the isolated notices scattered through the paragraphs on pro-cedure and competence nor the highly con-densed summary which closes the book are any adequate compensation. His general theory of the position assigned to the Senate under the Principate is that which he has already propounded in the second volume of the '*Staatsrecht*.' The Augustan system, according to him, was based on a compro-mise between the Sullan "*Senatsregiment*" and "*Cæsarian autocracy*." This copartner-ship, or "*duarchy*," no doubt did exist to a certain extent, and it is most clearly apparent in the distinction drawn between the "*provinces of Cæsar*" and those which for convenience' sake we call the "*senatorial provinces*," i.e., more strictly those still governed by ordinary *proconsuls*, and in the co-ordinate criminal jurisdiction of Senate and *princeps*. In yet another sense also, as Mommsen points out, the Senate stood by the side of the emperor. The ordi-nary magistrates had long been merged, so far as political importance and authority went, in the Senate, and from the reign of Tiberius onward the *comitia* were for all practical purposes effaced. Consequently the Senate stood out before the Roman world as the one representative of the old legitimate con-stitution, and the one ultimate depository of constitutional power. But true as all this is, we think that it leaves out of sight one aspect of the Senate's position which is, nevertheless, of considerable importance. The Senate is not only the representative of constitutional authority in opposition to autocracy, and in concert with the magis-trates entrusted with a share in the govern-ment, but it is also the council of advice which the *princeps* may consult and use in the administration of his own vast province. This function of the Senate, not as the partner of the *princeps*, but as an organ of government in his hands, increased in im-portance as its influence and independence as a partner declined; and emperors, such as Hadrian, who seriously narrowed the sphere assigned to the Senate and magistrates as independent authorities, all the more readily availed themselves of it as a sub-ordinate instrument.

We have confined ourselves in this review to a brief statement of the salient points in the author's general theory. Of the vast amount of valuable matter, of suggestive criticism, and brilliant if sometimes over-subtle analysis contained in the volume, only those who read it carefully for them-selves can form any just idea. In conclusion we may be allowed to express a hope that the weight of seventy years will not prevent Prof. Mommsen from carrying his study of Roman "*Staatsrecht*" beyond the date at which he has halted, and that scholars may yet have to thank him for an equally mas-terly analysis of the post-Diocletian system.

BOOKS OF TRAVEL.

India in 1887. As seen by Robert Wallace, Professor of Agriculture and Rural Economy in the University of Edinburgh. (Edinburgh, Oliver & Boyd.)

Orient and Occident: a Journey East from Lahore to Liverpool. By Major-General R. C. W. R. Mitford. With Illustrations from Sketches by the Author. (Allen & Co.)

An Indian Olio. By Lieut.-General E. F. Burton. (Spencer Blackett.)

PROF. WALLACE'S book, the outcome of a brief visit to India in 1887, records the impressions of a capable and practical observer on all matters relating to agri-culture in India. Some years ago Mr. Wallace was Professor of Agriculture in the College at Cirencester, and he had in his classes four English members of the Civil Service of India, and eleven natives who had come to England as Government scholars to study agriculture. His object in going to India was not only to extend his know-ledge of the agriculture of the British empire, but to ascertain what fruits the Cirencester College training had borne. On the latter point Prof. Wallace has been disappointed. With but few exceptions the men who came to study agriculture have not been employed in farming, and the expenditure incurred in their education has been so much loss.

Prof. Wallace wasted no time or oppor-tunities of observation during his visit. He landed in Bombay on the 10th of May, and left it to return to England on the 13th of September. During the four months that he was in the country he travelled over 13,000 miles by rail, and on the strength of that fact he justly claims credit for sincerity of purpose from those, at least, who know what it is to travel in India during the heat of summer. The greater portion of his book is devoted to cattle, as it is on cattle that agriculture in India mainly depends. With-out bullock labour, which in India occupies a similar position to—he might have said a more important position than—that of horse labour in this country, the cul-tivation of the soil would be paralyzed. Even if horses were to be had their shoulders could not withstand the jerk of the largest native ploughs, and their hoofs would sink into the wet undersoil, whereas the cloven foot of the bullock distributes the weight. Steam power for ordinary farm purposes is out of the question. Apart from the diffi-culty and expense of getting skilled work-men, the cost would be too great in a country where to procure fuel is already a difficulty of some magnitude. Prof. Wallace claims to have discovered a peculiarity in Indian cattle which, though known to the natives, seems to have been unrecognized by the European residents. However white the hair of the Indian cattle, he says, the skins of all but a very small percentage are black underneath. Only about one per cent. have white or light-coloured skins, like most of our home cattle, and these are usually con-sidered soft and weakly. "There is little doubt," he thinks,

"but that the black skin has much to do with the ability of Indian cattle to work in the sun without suffering as light-skinned cattle do. In this also will be found the best solution of the question as to whether native cattle can be im-

proved by crossing with English bulls. An animal with a white skin in our own country during a bright summer becomes tender to the touch, and will shrink from the hand laid on the back; or it even blisters and goes back in condition when exposed to the full force of the sun under conditions that would not affect darker varieties.The skins of nearly all the lower animals—sheep, pigs, buffaloes, and horses—under domestication in India are black or dark.....It has always been a marvel that the white skin, which on account of its colour does not absorb heat so quickly as a black skin, should not prevail in the human species within the Tropics; and it becomes even more wonderful now, when it begins to dawn upon us that the skins of the lower animals follow the same great law of Nature, whatever that law may be."

Prof. Huxley, with whom the author has been in communication on this subject, has recognized the importance of this discovery as bearing on the question of the relation of colour and climate.

Prof. Wallace devotes a chapter to Government cattle, which he considers far inferior to the ordinary cattle of the country in condition and usefulness. He cites various instances in which in the late Afghan War the Government bullocks, when called upon for efforts in the matter of transport, were found wanting. In no description of cattle which he examined while in India were there to be seen more plainly the evil consequences, inefficiency, and actual loss which attend the want of a rational system of management.

The main object with which Prof. Wallace's book was written was to induce the Government to change their views as to the necessity of a thoroughly equipped and efficient agricultural department. While admitting fully that in many matters the instinct and experience of the native cultivator lead him to make the best use of his opportunities, he urges that there is an immense scope for increasing the out-turn of the soil by the application of scientific methods. An agricultural department has been promised in Great Britain, and, arguing in the abstract, he says if this country, with all its wealth and the greatness and variety of its resources, requires such an organization, what must India require within her narrow grooves of commercial life, with the evils of an over-crowded population at no great distance, and periodical famines staring her in the face? It is not necessary to enter upon his arguments on this subject, for his conclusions are accepted by most authorities, and by none more frankly than by the Government of India. Writing in 1870, the Government of Lord Mayo expressed their opinion that of all branches of Indian industry agriculture, which constitutes the occupation of the great mass of the people, was by far the most important. They considered that it was susceptible of indefinite improvement; and though they were in doubt as to what measures ought to be taken in that direction, they were convinced that Government had not done for its improvement all that might have been done. This also, and upon larger experience and after minute inquiry, was the opinion of the Famine Commission. To the agricultural department as sketched by Prof. Wallace there seems to be no objection but the financial one. In this matter, however, the Government—what with a falling rupee and financial difficulties on

one hand, and the prospect of famine on the other—are between the devil and the deep sea. Prof. Wallace, besides, is hardly just when he says that anything agricultural that is now being done by the Government is reduced to the merest minimum, with a chance any moment of being utterly abandoned. Since he left India last year an expensive agricultural department, though not such an elaborate one as he advocates, has been established in Bengal. In conclusion, we can fully commend Prof. Wallace's thoughtful and well-written book. It contains, as might be expected from its author, much information of a general character which will be of interest to persons who have no anxiety to learn the condition of the Indian agriculturist.

General Mitford belongs to the great army of "globe-trotters" who are constantly drawing girdles round the earth, and as constantly sit down to tell us how they accomplished the feat. We have had so great an abundance of such books of late years that the main route is as familiar as the way from Bayswater to the Mansion House. A new book on the subject is, therefore, only justified when the author has something new to say, or is able to put "old friends into a new dress." Neither of these conditions can be said to be fulfilled in the work of General Mitford. The beaten tracks are retrodden, the old sights are reseen, and the descriptions are the counterparts of many which we have read during the last decade or two.

General Mitford, it may be remarked, repeats what he was no doubt told of the meanings of Chinese local names. It is a mistake, however, for one unacquainted with an Oriental tongue to vouch for etymologies in it. There was not the slightest necessity for him to give us the meanings of such place-names as Shanghai, Canton, and Peking; and when he has the misfortune to be wrong in every case the mistake ceases to be a negative one. Shanghai does not mean "near the sea," but "to approach the sea"; Canton means neither "city of rams" nor "city of the genii," but "the broad city"; and Peking means "northern capital," and not "royal throne."

General Burton, the author of 'Reminiscences of Sport in India,' has been tempted to write a second volume, but he cannot be said, any more than General Mitford, to have much new to tell his readers. He is, however, good-tempered and unassuming, a keen sportsman, and an intelligent observer. He likes to be on the side of common sense. He thinks it insane to follow up tigers on foot; he deprecates the unhealthy condition in which the municipality has left Calcutta; and he condemns the Sepoy's dress in former days, though he sighs for the good old times when the musketry course "was a simple affair. Neither officers nor men were bothered with theoretical instruction, or tall talk about trajectories, &c., and position drill, &c., which now make life a burden." The shooting of the general's regiment cannot have made them terrible to the foe:—

"In my zeal as a young officer I proclaimed a reward of a rupee for every bull's-eye in my company (the light), and this reward bore fruit in an unpleasant way. A certain havildar, by no means renowned for good shooting, made a bull's-eye at every practice; and on mention-

ing my surprise at this to the native officers, they screwed up their faces in a way which showed that there was something to be explained. It turned out that the orderly-boy in the pit was a son of the havildar, and that a peculiar cry was given by a confederate boy on the wing of the butt when the father came to fire. The consequence, if a hit at all, was an inevitable bull's-eye."

In 1871 General Burton tried his hand at a small piece of military reform, being struck by the number of men in a wing of his regiment of native infantry who were "excused boots" by the doctor, in marching from Secunderabad to Bellary under his second in command:—

"I had obtained from a friend who had been in Afghanistan a pair of Afghan sandals, which have no toe-ring, but a strap coming from the hind part of the sandal and fastened over the ankle with a small buckle; also, instead of the hard piece of leather over the instep, an arrangement of soft plaited leathern straps. The front part of the sole was well turned up, so as to protect the toes from injury by thorns or stones. Having myself tried them and become convinced of their advantages, I showed them to my regiment, and had them worn by some of the men at different times on parade; and they were so much liked that, as my headquarters wing was not to march for two months to come, I had a pair made up for each man in the wing. I may add that the cost was about one-third of that of boots—a great consideration with the Sepoy. Accordingly my wing marched all provided with these sandals, and there was not one case of sore or cut feet during the whole march! Moreover, the men could double, and run at full speed also, without any fear of the sandals coming off. On arriving at Bellary I reported the whole case to the Adjutant-General at Madras, and sent a pair of the sandals, with a request that the regiment might wear these Afghan sandals; I received a curt answer, returning the pattern, to the effect, that as the native army now wore boots, the commander-in-chief was not disposed to sanction any other foot-gear; so I gained nothing by my experiment but the satisfaction to feel that one wing of my corps had, for once in their lives, made an exceedingly comfortable march."

The Life of Thomas Ken, D.D. By E. H. Plumptre, D.D., Dean of Wells. With Illustrations by E. Whymper. 2 vols. (Isbister & Co.)

It is, we suspect, more as a labour of filial affection than with the expectation of supplying any public demand that the sympathetic and—to use a phrase of his own—"wee bit garrulous" Dean of the Cathedral Church of Wells has compiled this new biography of the best of its bishops. Undoubtedly the character of Ken will ever attract and enthral the few who love to contemplate the saintly life; and it is for those few that Dean Plumptre has written. By the world in general, it is to be feared, his labours will be accepted with a somewhat languid interest. The placid current of Ken's career mingled for a moment only with the turbid stream of political history. He will always be remembered as one of the seven bishops; but the story of the Nonjurors no longer excites any vehement emotion, and some people have begun to think that a lucky accident gave them an apparent importance in history quite disproportioned to their actual merits. Even of Ken himself, the saintliest of the band, we have seemed to know enough. We have known that

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through the scenes of corruption around him he moved like some white-robed figure of charity, with calm and even step and gentle voice; that he was tolerant and gracious to all men; a hater of controversy, though immovable on what was to him the highest, the only truth, and though not incapable of temporary resentment under calumny; no politician, but a bold opponent of inhumanity or injustice; uncensorious, yet a fearless rebuker of vice; a priest as far removed from men of the type of Sheldon as from men of the type of Burnet; seeking nothing for himself, and giving the glory to God; in a word, living and dying as in the Morning and Evening Hymns, his lasting monument, he bade his fellow men live and die. It was known, too, that in the great episode of his career he was guided by no thought but that of duty; that in the life of poverty and self-sacrifice which was henceforward his no murmur escaped him; and that when, in the natural process of things, the Nonjurors split into irreconcilables and quietists, his lot was cast with the latter. What more is wanted? Whether Ken did or did not write the 'Expostulatoria,' the 'Royal Sufferer,' and other doubtful pamphlets, we do not suppose to be a matter of interest to a dozen people outside Dean Plumptre's study; while as for the epic of 'Edmund,' the 'Hymnotheo,' the 'Dedications,' and the other metrical eccentricities which a leisure apparently as extensive as the Dean's own permitted the bishop to compose, and which an unkind fate has preserved from the dust-heap, we do not imagine that they will be again perused by human eyes until another biographer shall turn them over. Many of the investigations which Dean Plumptre undertakes are of a certain order of interest, though for the most part they would have appeared more suitably in the pages of a clerical magazine; but the story of Ken's life might have been made twice as interesting and told in half the space.

We are prepared to justify any tendency to impatience which may appear in these words. In a striking and affecting address Mr. S. R. Gardiner once spoke upon "the use of the imagination in history and politics." But Mr. Gardiner never, we fancy, entertained the idea of such a riot of conjecture as meets us in these volumes. Not until sixty-nine pages have been passed do we touch solid ground. The most insatiable devotee of the imagination will be satisfied with the continual—we had almost used another word—iteration of "it is probable," "it will be admitted, I think," "may have heard," "may well have learnt," "I do not imagine," "we may, perhaps, fancy" (what may be called imagination squared), "imaginary pictures," "not unreasonable to conjecture," and the like. Some twenty pages are occupied with a purely hypothetical account of a foreign tour, regarding which not a scrap of actual statement is extant. But in the midst of them appears comfort for the reader who values his time. The Dean is, we are convinced, a humourist, and we seem to hear the sound of a subdued and decorous chuckle as he delivers himself of the following naïve and much-needed warning, which might have properly appeared sooner: "Readers who prefer to confine themselves to a record of

actual facts can skip this chapter and pass on."

Dean Plumptre's intention has been to deal with Ken alone, and not with Ken's times. But he has of necessity been led to enter to some extent upon the domain of history. In this respect his work is generally, though not invariably, satisfactory. His admiration of Mr. Shorthouse's 'John Inglesant' leads him to endorse the historical mistake contained in the phrase "the trial of Hampden"; he espouses the commonplace and, we believe, wholly incorrect opinion that in the days of Charles II. "households like those of Colonel and Lucy Hutchinson were hardly to be found"; he speaks of England being "subservient to Louis in the war against Holland of 1665," although, of course, Louis was at the time the ally of the Dutch; and he seems to be unaware of the positive evidence of Charles's early conversion to Catholicism. But these are slight matters, and there are many points regarding which Dean Plumptre writes with clearness and some force. His defence of the character of James II., vol. i. pp. 260 *seq.*, drawn forth by the fact that Ken had a strong and almost affectionate personal regard for that well-abused king, is perhaps the most striking of these passages, and is, we believe, undoubtedly correct. He notices and corrects the popular idea that the seven bishops went to the Tower because they refused to read the Declaration of Indulgence; he examines with considerable acumen the authorship of the Sherborne Proclamation and the 'Jacobites' Liturgy'; and he describes in a really interesting manner Ken's action with reference to the appointment of Hooper to the see rendered vacant by his own deprivation—action which caused a painful separation from his old friend Lloyd, Bishop of Norwich.

At times the readers of Dean Plumptre's kindly and "wee bit garrulous" descriptions will feel unable to restrain a smile which the Dean evidently did not intend to encourage. The smile, indeed, may broaden into laughter when they meet with a parallel between Izaak Walton and the late Mr. Beresford Hope; or when, after recording the reluctant submission of the New College barber to the Parliamentary visitors, the Dean notes: "It is touching to think that the tonsorial casuist may have cut Ken's hair or trimmed his beard, if he had one." We feel that Dean Plumptre is not one of those who look to the word Mesopotamia for consolation in vain, and we envy him the ease with which his softer emotions are aroused. But the apotheosis of anti-climax is not reached until we turn vol. ii. p. 230, where the eyes of the faithful are gladdened by an elaborate picture of the good bishop's coffee-pot.

We hope that in what we have said there is no apparent tendency to depreciate Dean Plumptre's labours. They will appeal to the sympathies of many good people, but, from the handsome style in which these volumes leave the publishers' hands, principally to those of them who have means. The enormous expansion to which the writer has subjected the materials at his command—an expansion applied impartially to what was important and what was unimportant—has necessarily left the picture somewhat thin and colourless. The place which it

can take in our historical portrait gallery is but a lowly one. None the less we wish to give a welcome as warm as our duty will permit to a book which displays so much conscientious, if ill-spent labour, and so much sympathetic admiration for a saintly man; and which, while dealing with matters specially exciting to the clerical mind, is characterized by an absence, worthy of Ken himself, of all envy, malice, and uncharitableness.

NOVELS OF THE WEEK.

The Rogue. By W. E. Norris. 3 vols. (Bentley & Son.)

The Master of Rathkelly. By Hawley Smart. 2 vols. (White & Co.)

The Blackhall Ghosts. By Sarah Tytler. 3 vols. (Chatto & Windus.)

The Aspern Papers. By Henry James. 2 vols. (Macmillan & Co.)

Mr. Meeson's Will. By H. Rider Haggard. (Spencer Blackett.)

Le Mariage de Jacques. Par Madame Th. Bentzon. (Paris, Calmann Lévy.)

'THE ROGUE' is not Mr. Norris's "brightest and best," but it is Mr. Norris's, and that is much in its favour. It shows him almost too ready to use his happy knack of avoiding any approach to serious sentiment. It must, however, be allowed that, unlike some artists of the motives and manners school, he is guiltless of the vice of leading up to strong situations and then "scratching" them. In 'The Rogue' there are several people to be moderately liked. Even the uncle, who gives the book its title, excites not merely contempt, but a certain pleasant interest as well. In this he is more successful than his nephew, who is drawn on more conventional and less striking lines. One gets a little tired of the kind of up and down courtship between the latter person and Miss Mowbray, though it is not ill done, and is a conspicuous feature of the story. The rest of the people are to be liked in the negative way one likes so many real people, because they are real, and nothing else. The *dénoûment*, too, while fairly satisfactory all round, has much of the tame and unrealized quality of civilized existence. Mr. Norris's dialogue is still quick and keen, but his portraiture of gesture and manner has less variety and play of invention and perception. It is, for instance, a trifle that he endows his two typical old ladies with the trick of scratching the ends of their noses in moments of abstraction; but it is a trifle that is not without significance, and it seems to show that Mr. Norris, with so much that is good and sound to draw upon, is getting lazy, and (to put it scientifically) is developing a tendency to mannerism.

Perhaps because his subjects are more serious than usual, Mr. Hawley Smart is more than usually "regardless of grammar"; but his admirers will find no lack of the old sporting incidents, steeplechases especially—in his three volumes only adjuncts to a moral theme. For while Mr. Smart feels genuine and sincere horror for Irish outrages, the side of daily history which rouses most unflinchingly his sense of disgust is the banishment of sport from the most sporting nation in the world by such incidents as the attack on the Harkallow hunt and the assaults on

hounds and men. Apart from this mood of protest there is nothing to distinguish this story of martial riders and sporting young ladies from others by the same hand. His ruined Irish squire is lifelike, and the murder of Tim Ryan is an "ower-true tale," while Mr. Last, the member from America, is no exaggerated specimen of the modern carpet-bagger from the West.

'The Blackhall Ghosts' is a story of the Devonshire moors, and of a ruined old family in the second rank of squires living on a corner of the paternal acres, in a way more common fifty years ago than now. Miss Tytler has thrown a more lurid light than is altogether pleasing on the sordid life led by Hugh Endicott, and afterwards by his son, at Blackhall. The brutality of the elder man to his erring wife and the misery of the wife and daughter will prove too realistic for tender-hearted readers; and the antagonism of Jem to his sister, who returns, after many years of exile, to build up the family fortunes, is unnatural. In real life the wonder is rather the patience with which families, gentle and simple, particularly the latter, bear with and condone, and take pains to conceal, the faults of their weaker members. However, the Blackhall people are an exception to this rule, and the cruel experiences Lady Jones—or Joanna as we would rather call her, with her well-wishers—has to undergo when she lives incognita beside her brother and his family, are neither few nor trifling. But it is all rather provoking. Some one with a thickish stick and a memory for faces might have ended all this hide and seek so soon after it began—put the half-insane Celia into her right mind, banished the vicar's villainous cousin, enlightened the vicar on his proper position with Lucy, and made surly Jem and Joanna kiss and be friends. But then there would have been no story, which is a trite observation. Some of the local scenes are good, and there is no want of force in most of the characters.

Whatever doubt may be felt as to the value of Mr. James's recent novels and tales, there can be none about his industry, and the number of volumes that he issues is increasing so rapidly that he will soon rival his namesake, the owner of the two travellers on horseback. Nor does Mr. James by any means write hastily. It is obvious that, however lacking in vigour, his stories cost their author a great deal of labour. Of the three tales before us 'The Aspern Papers' is the most original. The innate vulgarity of the hero is cleverly brought out. Had Mr. James bestowed more care on the description of the Palazzo, and especially of its garden, and somewhat curtailed the dialogue, he would have added to its effectiveness. 'Louisa Pallant' is a trivial tale, but the realistic sketch of Mr. Macarthy Grice, an American chauvinist, makes 'The Modern Warning' amusing. The tragedy of the conclusion is out of harmony with the comedy of the opening of the story. The English is occasionally clumsy; for instance, "it stuck out of the Englishman at every pore that he was a resolute and consistent Conservative." It is hardly worth remarking that Mr. James, who is generally heedful of small social proprieties, has been guilty of a slip in making his Englishman a K.C.B.

Popular writers are so quick to take at the flood that tide in their affairs which leads on to fortune and the wreck of their reputation that it is a pleasure to find Mr. Rider Haggard still running free. 'Mr. Meeson's Will' is as a mere story excellent. It is told with a vigour which carries one straight through it almost before one has time to criticize. Here and there a high-flown passage offers a momentary check, but the obstacle is easily skipped, and Mr. Haggard's noble disregard of accuracy in details only makes one admire the determination with which he sticks to his main object—to keep a firm grip of his story and of his reader's attention to the end. When, after all, one pauses to reflect, it is quite absurd to see what a slight equipment Mr. Haggard brings to his task in the matter of the more solid qualities of the novelist—study of character, accuracy of detail, knowledge of human nature, the power of making things seem true. What are these things to him, or to his readers? There are shipwrecks, adventures at Kerguelen Land, tattooing of a will on a young lady's back, rescue, and an exciting lawsuit, and what more in reason could one want? And besides all this there is a rascal of a publisher, a sweater in the trade, whose system of operations is so successfully described and lashed that it seems a galled jade has winced, and Mr. Haggard has had to write a preface by way of answer to a letter from "a member of an eminent publishing firm," and to protest that except in romance "publishers are in the main just and frequently generous in their dealings." And then he goes on to defend himself against charges of plagiarism. In all this we are entirely on his side, but he can take care of himself. The main point with him is the story, and there is no denying that he has succeeded conspicuously. It is a pity, considering how well he has worked out the legal aspect of the will case, that he has not just taken the trouble to be quite accurate about the trial, but a story-teller, no doubt, knows that the law is all the more popular for being made a little ludicrous. The book is enlivened by many attempts at sharp sayings. Among the best is the remark that "the learned counsel is like the cigarette-boxes and new-fashioned weighing-machines at the stations: he does not work unless you drop something down him." Why it should be so inexpressibly funny for a barrister to require to be paid for his work is a mystery which it would be idle to attempt to solve. The joke about a lawyer and his fee has stood the test of centuries, and is still fresh.

It is more easy to be a critic than to be a novelist: at least we, in our modesty, have always thought so. But Madame Th. Bentzon is not a proof of this proposition, but of the contrary. Her criticism, which has been tolerably abundant, is anything but excellent; her stories, especially her shorter stories, of which there are three in her new volume, are often not without a certain merit. It is true that they are very closely modelled on the English and American novels which she has so frequently (in both senses) "studied," and that they amount to little more than a dexterous working out of subjects and treatment taken from these models, and Gallicized by dint of certain additional imitation of M. Victor Cherbuliez.

But the results are frequently ingenious and readable, and we, for our part, never care to quarrel with ingenious and readable stories. The first and title tale deals with the self-sacrifice (not a very severe one, perhaps) of an *ingénue* in refusing a tempting suitor because he is pledged in honour to a married friend; the second with a rather effective theme of coquetry, jealousy, and murder; the third with a fragment of Palissy ware discovered on a Gascon farm. No one of the three is particularly striking; but they are all workmanlike enough, and sufficiently different in subject.

PHILOLOGICAL LITERATURE.

Principles of the History of Language. By Hermann Paul. Translated from the Second Edition of the Original by H. A. Strong, LL.D. (Sonnenschein & Co.).—There is no book of recent times which has exercised a more profound and extensive influence on the progress of the science of language than Prof. Paul's '*Prinzipien der Sprachgeschichte*.' Probably every living philologist of eminence, whether belonging to the "new school" or not, is directly or indirectly indebted to it for much valuable instruction. Many of the author's conclusions, which on the first appearance of the work were denounced as paradoxes, are now apt to be regarded as truisms hardly needing to be elaborately defended. The second edition, published in 1886, contains so many improvements and additions as to be practically a new work. Notwithstanding the acknowledged merits of the book, it is possible that many scholars may be inclined to doubt whether a translation of it into English was required. Prof. Paul has, of course, written chiefly with a view to the needs of German students, and has accordingly taken most of his illustrations from the German language. Besides this, there are, owing to the difference between the two languages, many points which in a book for German readers may be passed over as self-evident, but which for Englishmen need to be specially insisted upon. What is really wanted is an original work on the same lines as the '*Prinzipien*,' written by an English philologist for English readers. In default of such a work, however, the present translation will be of great service, though it can only be used with full profit by students who have a considerable knowledge of German. Some new illustrations are added, but not nearly so many as could be wished, and we are glad to see that Dr. Strong intends to prepare a supplementary volume, dealing with the application to the English language of the principles set forth in the book. The translation (in which Dr. Strong has been largely aided by Mr. C. H. Herford) must have been a task of extraordinary difficulty, owing to the extreme subtlety of the author's thought and his many peculiarities of expression. On the whole, the rendering is surprisingly successful, though here and there a few oversights may be detected. *Verschlusslaut* ought to be translated "mutes" or "checks"; the rendering "final sounds," if it does not proceed, as we almost suspect, from a misunderstanding on the translators' part, will certainly give rise to one on the part of the reader. The occasional use of "German" for *Germanic* or *Teutonic* is a somewhat serious mistake. The index is deplorably inadequate, and has been prepared with a strange want of judgment. It is scarcely surprising that Dr. Strong has shrunk from the immense labour of making a complete index to the book, but he might at least have avoided such ludicrously irrelevant entries as "*Klagen*, p. 118," "*Bittschriften*, p. 118," which refer to the quotation "*Klagen*, nichts als klagen! *Bittschriften*, nichts als *bittschriften*!" given merely to illustrate the fact that a sentence may consist of a predicate only.

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Is looking over *The Dawn of French Literature*, by M. Gustave Masson (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge), it is sufficiently clear, or at least highly probable, that the author's recent and regretted death must be blamed for a very considerable number of singular and in other circumstances rather serious misprints. Who is the eminent "Villars" who wrote "Leges Anglo-Saxonice"? "Villardouin" would have been a capital name, if Master Francis had happened to think of it, for one of the cooks who marched against the Andouilles, but it hardly suits the historian-marshal. The wildest builders on the name "Turoldus" have not, we think, ever translated him into "Théoulde." Genin was an editor of the 'Song of Roland,' but not one of Roland's fellow paladins. And we might multiply these instances. Some slips not so easily or charitably explicable may in all probability be due, just as much, to a lack of final revision, which would have shown M. Masson that of the poems of Chretien de Troyes which he mentions as mostly still in MSS. hardly a single one is now unprinted; that the mixing up of the "Cardinal de Retz" with Villehardouin, Joinville, and Thibault of Champagne is the strangest of clerical errors; that no good authority now attributes the 'Nobla Leyceon' to the year 1100, and so forth. These blemishes (which might and should have been set right since the author could not set them right for himself) do not materially interfere with the usefulness of a careful and unpretentious collection, from the best French authorities on the subject, in reference to the origins of the French language and literature, illustrated by a good selection of the earliest texts, with glossaries and translations, and with useful examples of dialects. The main defect of all monographs of this kind—that rather too much is told for those who have not or are not aiming at a really scholarly knowledge of the subject, and not enough for those who have or are—may be charged, perhaps, against the book. But that was not M. Masson's fault, and he merely had to fill in the scheme of the series.

A Concise Dictionary of Middle English, from A.D. 1150 to 1580. By A. L. Mayhew and W. W. Skeat. (Oxford, Clarendon Press.)—The title of this volume is perhaps somewhat misleading, the work being, in fact, an index to the glossaries contained in eleven publications of the Clarendon Press, supplemented by the addition of words from other dictionaries. The definitions supplied in the glossaries referred to have, however, in many cases been revised, and the etymologies are added. Considered as a dictionary of Middle English the book is far from complete, hundreds of important words being omitted; but so far as it goes it is a model of careful and scholarly workmanship. From the point of view of narrow system it might be objected that the "Middle-English" period cannot legitimately be brought down to A.D. 1580; but so far as practical utility is concerned the inclusion of the sixteenth-century words is an unquestionable advantage. The etymological notes are particularly good. We have examined the book with considerable care, but have failed to discover any errors of importance. The word *Clotebur* is inserted by mistake, as in the glossary cited it is given only as a modern, not as a Middle-English word; and "drages" (interpreted "comfits or digestive sweetmeats") in the Prologue to the 'Canterbury Tales' is apparently a false reading of the Harleian MS. for *drogges* (drugs), which is found in other texts. Under *haring* the word *elring*, occurring in the 'Metrical Homilies,' is given as a variant ("probably an error"); it seems to be identical with the Middle High German *erlinc*, "minnow" (compare the modern *elritze* of the same meaning). The derivation of *osse* (to show, prophesy) from the French *oser* is surely untenable; it was probably suggested by the modern dialectal sense of the word, which is a secondary develop-

ment. We have noted a very few inaccuracies (probably mere misprints) in the marks of quantity in Anglo-Saxon and other early Teutonic words. Perhaps it may be regretted that the dictionary has not been made more complete, but it will be found amply sufficient for the use of beginners, whose special needs have been carefully provided for by the frequent insertion of cross-references for variant spellings and the obscurer inflectional forms of words.

Oidhe Chloinne Tuireann: The Fate of the Children of Tuireann. Edited for the Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language by Richard J. O'Duffy. (Dublin, Gill & Son.)—At the beginning of the present century native literature was not quite extinct in Ireland; poets wrote panegyrics and satires, and country school-masters copied out tales and verses, riddles and epigrams, in the Irish character and language into paper books, which were lent from farmhouse to farmhouse, and read aloud by a blazing fire of turf on many a winter evening. The invention of printing did not reach Ireland till three quarters of a century after it had been established in England, and it was not till the reign of Elizabeth that anything was printed in the Irish language. Very few books and none of its great literary monuments were ever printed for general reading, so that an early condition survived in Ireland as regards literature till this century, and so far as Irish-speaking people were concerned, all the books were manuscripts. There is something touching in this survival of an ancient literature, once the pride of poets and historians accustomed to receive liberal rewards from powerful chiefs like O'Donnell or great earls like Gearóit Mor, among farmers toiling to extract a hard living from mountain soil, through the exertions of scribes and men of letters whose greatest success was the applause of hearers clad in homespun linen and woollen, and whose gains were often no more than a welcome, a meal, and a few handfuls of wool. Many of these manuscript books, written in the last century or the first quarter of this century, survive, though newspapers and the English language have for the most part displaced them, and, where they have not fortunately reached a library, have consigned them to a forgotten shelf under the thatch, where, beside a disused spindle or a rushlight holder, their characters grow dimmer and their paper browner under a thick layer of turf dust. From a manuscript of this kind, written in 1820 by William Casey, of Tralee, and two others about a quarter of a century older, Mr. O'Duffy has constructed the present text of the 'Oidhe Chloinne Tuireann.' Mr. O'Curry had previously translated and edited the tale in the *Atlantis*, vol. iii., an edition not now procurable, and many of the notes of the present edition are useful quotations from O'Curry. The tale itself is one of the group of three well known to all Irish story-tellers as 'The Three Sorrows of Story-Telling,' of which the other two are 'The Death of Clan Uisnech' and 'The Death of Clan Lir.' The story is one of the hopeless attempt of Clan Tuireann to discharge an eric which has been adjudged against them. In their endeavour to obtain all required in the eric the sons of Tuireann are mortally wounded, and Tuireann himself falls dead with grief at their tragical end, after singing a lament over their bodies. The text and the Irish words in the full and excellent vocabulary are printed in Irish character, a proceeding to which all German scholars object, but which has many conveniences. Nor are the objections made to the use of the Irish character altogether sound. Most of the type used since the publication of O'Donovan's edition of the annals of the Four Masters has been cast from the handwriting of modern native scholars, which is precisely what was done when Greek was first printed, and it is no objection to the Irish type now used that it is not that of any particular ancient manuscript. Printing in Irish

type is much clearer and more elegant than the plan of printing Irish words in italics, and the only well-grounded objection to it is that in an *editio princeps* it is more difficult to indicate the expansion of manuscript contractions in it than by using roman type and italics. The vocabulary of proper names contains many interesting notes, and Mr. O'Duffy's book is in every particular a creditable edition of this interesting tale.

Τὸ Χιακὸν Γλωσσάριον ἔτοι ἦ ἐν Χίῳ λαλουμένη Γλῶσσα μετὰ τινῶν ἐπιγραφῶν ἀρχαίων τε καὶ νέων. καὶ τοῦ χάρτου τῆς νήσου. Συνέγραψεν Α. Γ. Πασπάτης. (Athens, Perré Brothers.)—The most interesting form of the modern Greek language is certainly that spoken in the islands, but hitherto very little has been done for its illustration. Dr. Paspatis's excellent glossary of the dialect spoken in the island of Chios is, therefore, all the more welcome. The dialect has, it seems, been to some extent treated in the *Ἀρακτα* of the eminent scholar Coray; but Dr. Paspatis has studied it minutely on the spot, and has been able to make use of a considerable number of local documents, chiefly of the eighteenth century, a few of which he prints in full. As Dr. Paspatis remarks that Coray's *Ἀρακτα* is practically inaccessible on account of its price, we do not quite see his justification for omitting some words on the ground that they are explained in that work. Some of the etymologies suggested, especially those from obscure words in Hesychius, appear far-fetched and improbable, and the deviations from alphabetical order are curiously frequent. We could wish that the author had used a better phonetic notation than the ordinary Greek alphabet supplies; but this was hardly to be expected. It is surprising to find how much of the ancient Greek vocabulary has survived in vernacular use. Although Dr. Paspatis's own style is rather an extreme example of Hellenic purism (inasmuch that any classical scholar who knows the meaning of δὲν and ὦν will be able to read him easily), he has fortunately avoided the mistake of regarding the dialectal archaisms as a matter of course when they coincide with the literary language. The introduction gives some interesting particulars respecting the present condition of the island. Of course the people of Chios claim Homer as their countryman, and it seems they have traditions about him, which Dr. Paspatis forbears to quote as being too trivial or absurd. He mentions, however, that a precipice is pointed out from which the poet is said to have fallen. An appendix contains about sixty inscriptions dating from classical times, and fifteen which belong to the period of the Genoese occupation.

It is most satisfactory to find that Syriac is now so much studied that a second edition of Dr. Nestle's short grammar (which appeared in 1881) has proved to be necessary, *Syriacæ Grammatik, mit Literatur, Chrestomathie und Glossar*, forming part v. of the "Porta Linguarum Orientalium" begun by the late Dr. Petermann, and continued by Prof. Strack (Berlin, Reuther). We are glad to see from the preface that, like Prof. Socin's Arabic grammar, which appeared in the same collection, Dr. Nestle's Syriac grammar will also appear in English; in fact, the vocabulary is for this purpose explained in German and English. For the rest the first edition has undergone only a few alterations, chiefly in the department of syntax, and of course in the enumeration of literary productions in Syriac, which naturally have increased in the course of seven years.

PRODUCTIONS on Samaritan literature are so scanty that we must not leave unnoticed the smallest contribution concerning this gradually perishing sect. Petermann and Geiger are no more with us; Dr. Kohn, of Buda-Pesth, and the Rev. J. W. Nutt have diverted their literary attention to other fields; Dr. Heidenheim, however, still continues faithful to Samaritan literatures in his 'Bibliotheca Samaritana.' We mention, therefore, with great pleasure a new

recruit for Samaritan literature in Dr. Leopold Wreschner, who has just brought out an interesting monograph under the title of *Samaritanische Traditionen, mitgeteilt und nach ihrer Geschichtlichen Entwicklung untersucht* (Berlin, Mayer & Müller). It gives chiefly German translations of the Arabico-Samaritan MSS. in Berlin containing a commentary on the Pentateuch by Abu-l-Faraj Munaja ibn Zadakah, son of the well-known poet Zadakah, who lived about the middle of the thirteenth century. Although very little originality is to be found even in early commentators, such as Abu-l-Hassan (who wrote in 1033, a specimen of whose work was given by Dr. Neubauer, but not edited entirely, as Dr. Wreschner says) or Jusuf ben Salamah (who lived 1055, and whose MSS. are in the British Museum, but are not yet sufficiently made known), these, as well as Munaja, are of importance for the history of the development of Samaritan theology and dogmatics, for although their commentaries contain many foreign elements, taken from Rabbanitic, Mohammedan, and even Sabeen sources, they have a great deal that belongs to ancient Israel remaining in them. And besides, as all these commentaries have a polemical character and are directed against the other Jewish sects, we learn much in this respect from them. The extracts which Dr. Wreschner gives from Munaja concern the passover ceremonies, the Sabbath, the precepts for the women, the law of inheritance, and the use of meat. Dr. Wreschner gives everywhere useful comparative matter from the rabbinical literature, from the Karaitic books, and from the Koran and Mohammedan tradition.

COUNT CARLO DE LANDBERG has already proved by his 'Proverbes et Dictons du Peuple Arabe' that he is familiar with the various vernaculars of Arabic. By publishing the Syrian and Egyptian versions of the amusing story of Basim the Smith and Harun al-Rashid (Leyden, Brill), Count Landberg now gives the student means of becoming acquainted with the vernaculars of Syria and Egypt. There is, indeed, no good chrestomathy as yet of spoken Arabic, which is certainly not so different from classical Arabic as Count Landberg declares in his preface. But besides the Arabic texts, the editor adds a good and faithful French translation of the story, which became known through a rather free translation by William Beloe in the third volume of his 'Miscellanies,' 1795, from which it was translated into German in 1797. Count Landberg is a little too autocratic in dictating rules to Arabic scholars. He says that no Arabic scholar who has not been in the East should dare to occupy himself with vernacular Arabic. "Leave this," he says, "to Fleischer, Wetzstein, Socin, Houdas, Goguyer, who are equally strong in classical Arabic." We are not aware that the late Prof. Fleischer was ever in the East: certainly he was never there long enough to become acquainted with the Arabic actually spoken there; but why does Count Landberg omit to mention the rising Dutch scholar Dr. Snouck Hurgronje? His 'Mekkanische Sprichwörter' gives him, no doubt, the greatest claim to be heard on the vulgar Arabic spoken in Mekka and Medina.

We are glad to be able to mention the critical edition (Leyden, Brill) made by Count Landberg of the Arabic text of Imād ed-Dīn el-Kātib el-Isfahānī's history of the conquest of Syria and Palestine by Salāh ed-Dīn, according to the existing MSS., amongst which is a MS. formerly belonging to a private library at Tripoli. Baron von Kremer once made a copy of it. The present editor, however, was fortunate enough to acquire the original, which was in the possession of a learned Mussulman. We must reserve a detailed notice of this important work, which is edited in a scholarly way, till after the appearance of Count Landberg's second volume, which will contain the description of the MSS. with their variations, the biography of the author, a

glossary, notes, and a table of the proper names. We hope that the editor may also give a translation of this difficult book for the benefit of students of Arabic, and more especially of the historians of the crusades who are unacquainted with Arabic.

CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

The Astonishing History of Troy Town. By Q. (Cassell & Co.)

The White Man's Foot. By Grant Allen. (Hatchards.)

We can hardly call 'Troy Town' a novel or even a tale. It is rather a series of entertaining sketches of West Country life strung together on a thread of not too probable narrative. The situations are occasionally humorous, though generally far-fetched; but the influence of Dickens on the writer is a good deal too obvious. The headings of the chapters are rather tiresome than funny. Among the characters are a choleric admiral, two highly correct spinsters, a weak-headed misogynist, a loquacious, but not too facetious servant, a poetical collector of Customs, and a grotesque pair of twins, compounded in equal proportions of the brothers Cheeryble and of Tweedledum and Tweedledee. To these enter a plausible dynamiter and his wife, masquerading as people of quality. The lady dynamiter fools two men, and manages to secrete the dynamite in a derelict ship. The misogynist sees her on board and takes her for a ghost; but on visiting the ship he finds a stray case of dynamite, which explodes in his hand, but does not kill him, though it destroys the ship and alarms the town. After this miraculous escape it is not particularly surprising that the misogynist should fall sick of a fever and then marry the beautiful sister of the twins, though why she should marry him is indeed a mystery. Nevertheless, the story is more entertaining than a candid summary of its plot and incidents might lead the reader to anticipate. Q. is a writer whom we shall be glad to meet again. He has a keen eye for the humours of provincial life, and will write a good story if he will indulge his own genius more and imitate others less.

We have to thank Mr. Grant Allen for a little volume full of interesting and exciting matter. The lesson behind the story is a favourite one with the author. The savage, we learn from it, is always a savage. In the course of generations the race may, perhaps, improve, but the individual man never. The white man offers him religion and science, fire-water and the other appliances of civilized life; but the fire-water is the only one for which his new convert cares. We have had the same shown in Mr. Grant Allen's tale of the Rev. John Crowder, the native missionary who relapsed and went Fantee when he got back again among his own people. It has been illustrated from the persistent devil-worship which prevails still among the dark races in the West Indian islands. In 'The White Man's Foot' the scene changes to Hawaii, but the lesson is still the same. The old priest of Mauna Loa, the great Hawaiian volcano, is to all outward appearance a good, civilized Christian man, who has discarded his old beliefs and has heartily accepted the more excellent way offered him. All the while he keeps the old priest's mask in his closet and the old faith in his heart. His contact with the scientific explorers who come to pry into the secrets of his great goddess works out into a decidedly interesting tale, a little too full, perhaps, of hairbreadth escapes in situations from which escape seems impossible, and is found only at the very last possible moment, when all hope has been given up, but a well-sustained narrative throughout. We will not spoil the reader's enjoyment by anticipating any further. The hour which it will cost him to master the book for himself will be time pleasantly spent.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

MISS "BLUEBELL SHEPHERD'S" appeals to those "who have found this little book stupid and uninteresting not to be too hard upon her" might well disarm serious criticism, if the mild little chronicle of a young lady's impressions of two months' voyage in a Cunard steamer, which she calls *Reminiscences of a Pleasant Voyage* (Griffith, Farran & Co.), were likely to meet with any such. As it is, no reviewer ought to be so hard-hearted as to ask questions about the reasons for their publication, and all references to literary style must be—for obvious reasons—conspicuously absent. The lady's readers may, however, complain of the scanty information furnished them about places of interest visited on the Mediterranean coasts as compared with the abundance of knowledge which they may acquire concerning the weather encountered by the *a.s. Atlas*, the hours at which Miss Shepherd rose in the morning, and similar details. The author's pleasant experience of the Cunard Mediterranean trip, however, may well encourage others to follow her example as regards the nautical enterprise, and may possibly be almost as useful in deterring them from a literary departure decidedly less advisable.

The anthology of *Australian Poets*, which Mr. Sladen has edited (Griffith & Farran), will repay examination. We confess we think it would have been better had it been less complete, that is to say, had it been confined to those who can properly be called Australians, and if Mr. Sladen had resisted the temptation of annexing Alfred Domett, "Orion" Horne, Mr. Woolner, and others, who really belong to the mother country. It is on her Lindsay Gordons and Kendalls that Australia must rely to make good her claims to a foothold on Parnassus.

CANON AINGER's new edition of his *Life of Charles Lamb* (Macmillan & Co.), originally issued in the "Men of Letters Series," deserves a hearty welcome, ranging as it now does with the biographer's delightful edition of Lamb's works. The little additions to the second and third chapters will be pleasing to Lambites. We have also received from Messrs. Macmillan two additional volumes of the tasteful edition of Miss Yonge's fiction. *Heartsease and Hopes and Fears* will obtain a fresh lease of popularity in their new dress. Equally welcome is the reprint of *Hyppatia* by the same firm, who also send us an addition to the "Golden Treasury Series" in Mr. Wright's well-known version of *The Phædrus, Lysias, and Protogoras*.—From Messrs. Trübner we have received an edition in one volume of those remarkable books *The Autobiography of Mark Rutherford* and *Mark Rutherford's Deliverance*.—Mr. Nimmo sends us a charming and dainty volume, *Lyrics from the Songbooks of the Elizabethan Age*, selected by Mr. Bullen from the two delightful anthologies he has already gathered from the singers of "the spacious times of great Elizabeth."

MESSRS. ROUTLEDGE send us a volume edited by Prof. Morley, and containing *Schiller's Poems and Plays* translated by various hands. We fear the variety of the hands detracts somewhat from the value of the translations as a whole.

AMONG the books of reference on our table is that valuable work *Fenn on the Funds* (Eiffingham Wilson) with its multitudinous details, the fourteenth edition of which, edited by Mr. Nash, has lately reached us.

We have on our table the catalogues of Mr. Baker (monastic, also a theological catalogue), Mrs. Bennett (two catalogues, one of books and one of autographs), Mr. Davey (autographs), Messrs. Ellis & Elvey (good catalogue), Messrs. Garratt & Co., Mr. Glaisher (remainders), Mr. Gray (genealogical, and also one of county history), Mr. Grose, Mr. Lachlan, Messrs. Nutt (theological), Messrs. Robson & Keralake (interesting), and Mr. Stibbs; also

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of Mr. Ball of Barton-on-Humber, Messrs. Fawn & Son of Bristol, Mr. Murray of Derby, Messrs. Douglas & Foulis and Mr. Johnston of Edinburgh, Messrs. Young & Son of Liverpool, Mr. Sutton of Manchester, Mr. Thorp of Reading, and Mr. Nichols of Sheffield. Messrs. Williams & Norgate send us two of their excellent foreign book circulars; and the following foreign booksellers are also contributors: M. Cohn (valuable sixteenth century books), M. Siegmund (magic, &c.), and M. Stargardt (Goethe and Schiller literature) of Berlin, and M. Neubner (genealogy) of Cologne. M. Charavay sends us a catalogue of valuable autographs, including historical documents which he will sell in the Rue Drouot on Monday week.

We have on our table *History of Tennessee*, by J. Phelan (Boston, U.S., Houghton),—*Handbook to Bath*, edited by J. W. Morris (Bath, Pittman),—*The Australian Irrigation Colonies*, compiled by J. E. M. Vincent (Chaffey Brothers),—*A New Easy Latin Primer*, by the Rev. E. Fowle (Sonnenschein),—*Playwriting*, by a Dramatist ('The Stage' Office),—*A Book of Counsels for Girls*, by Mary Bell (S.P.C.K.),—*The Battlefield Treasure*, by F. B. Harrison (Blackie),—*Fishin' Jimmy* (Edinburgh, Douglas),—*In the Shadow of Death*, by Sir Gilbert Campbell, Bart. (Spencer Blackett),—*Onwards* (S.P.C.K.),—*When I was a Boy in China*, by Y. Phon Lee (Blackie),—*Silver Star Valley*, by M. Bramston (National Society),—*Rivals at School*, by C. J. Hamilton (S.S.U.),—*Who is John Norman?* by C. H. Beckett (Cassell),—*On the Downs*, by C. E. M. (S.P.C.K.),—*The Rosebud Annual* (Clarke & Co.),—*The Record of a Human Soul*, by H. G. Hutchinson (Longmans),—*Tom's Nugget*, by Prof. J. F. Hodgetts (S.S.U.),—*Carried Off*, by Esme Stuart (National Society),—*Fire-Flies and Mosquitoes*, by F. F. Moore (S.P.C.K.),—*The Tragedy of Brinkwater*, by Martha L. Moodye (Cassell),—*From World to Cloister; or, my Novitiate*, by Bernard (Kegan Paul),—*The Butterfly Birthday Book* (Marcus Ward),—*Selections from Poems of Robert Southey*, edited by S. R. Thompson (W. Scott),—*Sylvia's Ride for Life*, by F. G. Webb (Dean & Son),—*Stream Songs*, by E. Broad (Malvern, the Author),—*Monadnock, and other Sketches in Verse*, by J. E. Nesmith (Cambridge, U.S., Riverside Press),—*A World in White*, by L. Meadows (Ridgway),—*The Astrologer's Spell, a Drama in Two Acts*, by Averall (Dean & Son),—*A Handful of Pansies*, by B. Craigmyle (Aberdeen, Adam),—*Old-Fashioned Roses*, by J. W. Riley (Longmans),—*University Sermons, New and Old*, by C. J. Vaughan, D.D. (Macmillan),—and *The Minister of the True Tabernacle*, by the Rev. A. B. Webb, D.D. (Skeffington). Among New Editions we have *Oliver Cromwell*, by R. Pauli (Bell),—*Greek Folk-Songs*, by Lucy Garnett, revised by J. S. Stuart-Glennie (Ward & Downey),—*A Compendious Greek Grammar*, by W. D. Geddes (Edinburgh, Oliver & Boyd),—and *Records of a Stormy Life*, by Mrs. Houston (Spencer Blackett).

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

ENGLISH.

Theology.

Holy Scriptures in Ireland a Thousand Years Ago, Selections from the Wurtzburg Glosses, trans. by Olden, 8vo. 6/6.
Bennan's (E.) The History of the Origins of Christianity, Books 6 and 7, cr. 8vo. 2/6 each, cl.
Theological Influence of the Blessed Virgin on the Apostolic School, by Christianus, 8vo. 5/6.
Weiss's (Dr. B.) A Manual of Introduction to the New Testament, trans. by A. J. K. Davidson, Vol. 2, 7/6 cl.
Witherow's (T.) Form of the Christian Temple, a Treatise on the Constitution of the New Testament Church, 10/6 Law.

Gomme's (G. L.) The London County Council, its Duties and Powers according to Local Government Act, 1888, 2/6 cl.
Lloyd's (O. E.) The County Courts Act, 1888, 8vo. 10/6 cl.
Parker's (F. R.) The Election of County Councils under the Local Government Act, 1888, 8vo. 20/6 cl.

Fine Art.

Dilke's (Lady) Art in the Modern State, 8vo. 9/6 cl.
English Scenery, illustrated, 7/6 cl.
Kest's (J.) Endymion, illustrated, imp. 4to. 42/6 cl.
Pen and Ink Notes at Glasgow Exhibition, Illustrations by Davidson, with Account of Exhibition by Walker, 2/6

Poetry and the Drama.

Archer's (W.) Masks or Faces, a Study in the Psychology of Acting, cr. 8vo. 6/6 cl.
Coleridge's (Hon. S.) Fables, cr. 8vo. 4/6 cl.
Miller's (R. C.) Historical Tableaux for Dramatic Representation, 3/6 parchment.
Outram's (G.) Legal and other Lyrics, illustrated, 5/6 cl.
Prevost's (C. M.) Drawing-Room Plays for Children, 2/6 cl.

Music.

Hatton's (A. F.) Tunes for Tots, oblong, 2/6 swd.

History and Biography.

Benjamin's (S. G. W.) Persia, cr. 8vo. 5/6 cl. (The Story of the Nations Series.)
Broadfoot (Maj. r. G.) Career of, compiled by Major W. Broadfoot, 8vo. 16/6 cl.
Frederick, Crown Prince and Emperor, Biographical Sketch, by Rodd, Introduction by H. M. Empress Frederick, 6/6
Howorth's (H. H.) History of the Mongols: Part 3, The Mongols of Persia, 8vo. 28/6 cl.
Kaye's (Sir J. W.) Lives of Indian Officers, Vol. 1, 6/6 cl.
Law's (E.) History of Hampton Court Palace: Vol. 2, Stuart Times, illustrated, 21/6 cl.
Life and Times of Girolamo Savonarola, by Prof. P. Villari, illustrated, 2 vols. 8vo. 32/6 cl.
Macgregor (Major-General Sir C. M.) Life and Opinions of, edited by Lady Macgregor, 2 vols. 8vo. 35/6 cl.
Morley's (S.) Life of, by E. H. Elder, popular edition, 5/6 cl.
Rosa's (J.) Three Generations of Englishwomen, Mrs. J. Taylor, Mrs. S. Austin, and Lady Duff Gordon, 2 vols. cr. 8vo. 24/6 cl.
Theal's (G. McCall) History of South Africa, 1691-1795, 15/6
Tristram's (W. O.) Coaching Days and Coaching Ways, 21/6
Turner's (C. E.) Count Tolstai as Novelist and Thinker, Lectures, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.
Whitman's (C. R.) Imperial Germany, a Critical Study of Fact and Character, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.

Geography and Travel.

Bradshaw's (J.) New Zealand of To-day, 1884-1887, 8vo. 14/6 cl.
Cuthill's (E. E.) In the Sunny South, illustrated, 4to. 3/6 bds.
Edwards's (A. B.) A Thousand Miles up the Nile, cheaper edition, roy. 8vo. 7/6 cl.
Holiday Rambles in England, Ireland, and Scotland, illus. 2/6
James (F. L.) and Thripp's (J. G.) The Unknown Horn of Africa, from Berbera to Leopold River, illustrated, 21/6 cl.
Lucas's (C. P.) A Historical Geography of the British Colonies, Vol. 1, cr. 8vo. 5/6 cl.
Phillips-Wolley's (C.) A Sportsman's Eden, 8vo. 9/6 cl.
Roosevelt's (T.) Ranch Life and the Hunting Trail, illus. 21/6
Wood's (C. W.) Letters from Majorca, illustrated, 8vo. 14/6 cl.

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THE LEWES CHARTERS.

It is impossible to accept without protest the assertion of your reviewer (*ante*, p. 559) as to these charters, that the Cluny documents "have established the general authenticity of certain records which have been impugned with pertinacity," and that now "something is certain in the controversy. That Queen Matilda was the mother of Earl Warenne's wife may be finally

accepted." For, on the contrary, the appearance of this "comforting" assertion synchronizes with that of Mr. Freeman's total abandonment of the belief in question, sorely against his will. That "climbing down" is to Mr. Freeman a process peculiarly distasteful is probably a familiar fact. It has taken him, in this case alone, ten years to perform the feat, which surely suggests that the position he abandons can no longer be defended.

As an illustration of how history is written in these latter days it is really instructive to trace this "Lewes charters" controversy. The main document in dispute is the great "charter of foundation" alleged to have been granted to Lewes Priory. Its genuineness appears to have been unquestioned till Mr. E. C. Waters, ten years ago, challenged, on the strength of a letter of St. Anselm, the accepted belief (*ancore* Stapleton) that Gundrada was a daughter of Queen Matilda by a previous husband, Gherbod. This brought him into conflict with the evidence of the above charter, which he had hitherto admittedly accepted as genuine, but which he now declared to be clearly spurious. This bold challenge was extremely annoying to Mr. Freeman, who had examined, and committed himself to, Stapleton's view in most emphatic terms. Mr. Stapleton, he wrote in his "Norman Conquest," had on this point "convincingly made out" his case: Gundrada was "beyond all doubt" a daughter of Matilda. "There is no doubt," we read, as the result of Mr. Freeman's investigations, "that both she and her brother Gerbod were the children of Matilda by her first husband." Never was the Professor more confident. "It is certain," he wrote, "that the bride of William was already the mother of two children by another man." Loth, after such language as this, to admit that his certainties had no foundation, Mr. Freeman clung to the Lewes charter, publicly declaring, "To my mind it has the strongest internal signs of genuineness." Mr. Waters retorted that he could "scarcely understand how so transparent an imposture has misled so many generations of antiquaries." From all which the public may learn the nature of the evidence employed by historians of the Norman period.

Now, after the lapse of ten years, during which no fresh evidence has been discovered against his conclusions, Mr. Freeman surrenders at discretion in an article of portentous length. But the strange thing is that he fails to perceive the collapse of Mr. Waters's own argument. The latter writer had undertaken to demonstrate the spuriousness of the charter in question by two definite tests. Of these the first was a *petitio principii*, while the second consisted of a statement in the charter as to the earldom of Surrey. "This statement," Mr. Waters wrote, "is contradicted by Orderic Vitalis, who is corroborated in this instance by the incontrovertible evidence of charters." His knowledge of Orderic when he thus wrote must have been slight indeed, or he would have known that, so far from contradicting, that historian absolutely confirms the statement in the charter (as, indeed, he might have learnt from the work of Dr. Stubbs, to whom he dedicated his essay*). He has subsequently, we learn, discovered this, and a wonderful theory about Domesday Book and Earls Palatine has been accordingly replaced by another, and quite different, explanation, in which earls "by popular estimation" are distinguished from "earls by formal creation," and "constitutional" tendencies are discovered in the Conqueror which would secure his election at once to any Conservative club.

But what is "the incontrovertible evidence of charters"? Will it be believed that Mr. Waters, who writes so glibly of "spurious charters" in which the "forger.....brings together witnesses who were not contemporary," here bases his case on two Battle Abbey charters,

* "Const. Hist." (1874), i. 361, where Dr. Stubbs explains the previous passage in Orderic.

of which one, as Mr. Freeman has truly observed, has "a very suspicious sound," while the other, according to the same authority, has a simply "impossible" list of witnesses? Yet it is to this very list of witnesses that Mr. Waters, for all these years, has again and again appealed as "incontrovertible evidence" that William de Warenne was Earl of Surrey in 1076! Nor has Mr. Freeman impugned this argument. On these charters I myself pronounce no opinion. I leave it to Mr. Waters to prove their genuineness, and to establish the fact that they passed "at Winchester in 1076 and 1086." But when each of these writers calls on us to recognize the other as a most eminent authority on these matters, we may be tempted by the facts I have here set forth to exclaim, "Arcades ambo!"

J. H. ROUND.

A MS. OF THE METRICAL TRANSLATION OF
PALLADIUS 'DE RE RUSTICA.'

Dorchester.

In the library of Earl Fitzwilliam at Wentworth Woodhouse is a MS. of the translation of Palladius, numbered Z. I. 22. The book is of parchment, 8½ in. by 6 in. F. 1 is missing, but was probably blank. Tabula, ff. 9, 2-10; Proemium i., ff. 3. The initial A is good gold, about 2½ in. square, on a field azure and gules, of poor tone, in square compartments. On the field, within the letter, is white flourishing. The field extends about an inch to the right. On this, in white and (one word) yellow, is written the rest of l. 1, which runs:—

Agriculture as in nature and art.

Proemium i., like the minor ones and the epilogue, is written in scarlet, crimson (possibly altered purple), blue, and green, with a word or two in gold. The initials, too, are gold. The effect is most brilliant, but not always harmonious. Rhyming words agree in colour. Proemium i. contains sixteen eight-line stanzas. Through eleven of these the last words of one are the first of the next, e.g., in stanzas 1 and 2:

... So sende he me sense and science
Of my balade away to rade redire
Pallade and do to plade his excellence.
His excellence O trine and con eterne
Almyghty lord Alsapient al good.....

And, likewise, "consideraunce," the last word of Proemium i., is the first of book i., and so on throughout the books. Stanzas 12 and 13 contain the notice of Duke Humphrey and his library which constitutes the great interest of this poem:—

At Oxenford thys lord his bookis fele
Hath eu'y clerk at werk. Theys of hem gete
sentient
Metaphisic phisic these other fele
They natural moral they rather trete
Theologie here ye is with to mete
Him liketh loke in boke historial
In desik xii hym selue as half a strete
Hath boked thair librai uniu'al.
For clerke or knyghthod or husbandrie
That Orator Poete or Philosphre
Hath treted—told, or taught, in memorie
Eche let and lyne hath he as shette in cofre
Oon nouelte unnethe is hym to p're.
Ytt Whethamstede And also Pers de mounte (?)
Titus and Antony And y laiste ofre.

Unluckily a blue letter has come off on the green gloss over line i., which gloss seems certainly to have given the number of "bookis fele," whether only 130 or more. The character before c may stand for "scilicet," but I cannot be certain. The construing of these stanzas is not quite easy, and I may be mistaken in thus reading them:—

"At Oxford this lord's many books keep every scholar at work. They from these books acquire metaphysics. Others are moved by physical study. Others natural science. Others rather study morality. High theology is here to be met with. Some like to look into history. [This lord] has furnished with books their universal library in twelve desks,* like half a street in extent. For everything about religion, chivalry, or husbandry, that orator, poet, or philosopher has treated, told, or taught, [this lord] has in his memory as if shut up in a coffer. It is hard to bring forward anything which to him

* Desk bookcases such, e.g., as yet survive, with fittings for the chains, in the library of Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

is a novelty. Such novelty [however] Whethamstede, Pers de Mounte (?), Titus and Anthony, and I, the last, offer to him."

Mr. Nicholson, the Bodleian Librarian, informs me that these names are from other sources well known in connexion with the duke and his books.

After Proem i., on ff. 118, four seven-line stanzas to a page of text, follow thirteen books of various lengths, each, from ii. to xiii., with a proemium of from one to five eight-line stanzas. These are written like Proem i., and consist of ejaculations to God, praise of Duke Humphrey, and allusions to injury done to the author, as a Churchman, e.g.:—

Thus Aust is spende O alpha lord and oo
O endes ende o gramynys gynynge
To make aught until this boke be doo
So graunte myght and therewithal conynge
As myn entent is thyn honour to sprynge
And ingement, thy p'ncis flour, on cleer
On cloudy derk or light he must upbrynge
And y to werk am sette at September.

Of the thirteen books the first has a good gold initial C, filled in with a bright blazon of the royal arms, and well flourished round in the usual fifteenth century style. Simpler gold initials begin the other books. Each leaf has on reverse a blue L (liber), each verso a Roman numeral, red if single, red and blue otherwise. Several numbers are wrong, seemingly the only blemish in this beautifully written MS. At the top corner of each verso the Arabic number of the folio is given. Throughout the text* occur a number of Latin glosses. For instance, here is a line giving an odd precept for the treatment of Ziziphus:—

tristis sit strigilus

Yt this tre lowre an horscomb wol hym chere.

The MS. ends with a two-stanza epilogue, similar in sentiment to the proems, and even more rich in calligraphy.

The book is a remarkable-looking one outside. It is bound richly, if a little roughly, in russet; but inserted in the front cover is an enamel of a woman, with good, but somewhat heavy features. Round the sides and top is stamped, on inlaid black calf, "Jaqueline Dutcheess of Bavaria, Countess of Holland, Zealand, and Henault, Wife to Humfrey, Duke of Gloucester, 1427." On one of several modern blank-paper fly-leaves within is a memorandum headed, "J. West 1767." He says, *inter alia*, that the MS. was in "Rotten wood binding," and that the enamel was "by the Judicious and laborious Mr. Stillington judged proper to make a part of the new binding." The enamel being neither *cloisonné*, *champlevé*, nor of the slightly relieved style, but a simple enamel painting, cannot, according to Labarte, be earlier than the sixteenth century. After West's memorandum comes one by myself, dated 1862, recording my inquiries at my own college, C.C.C., Cambridge, at C.C.C., Oxford, at the Bodleian, and at the British Museum, to test, and, as it turned out, to disprove, West's conjecture that the book is Lydgate's 'Kalendarium Rythmicum,' said by Tanner to be dated C.C.C. With regard to the authorship I may observe this much, that a very good authority is perfecting an argument on the subject, and will doubtless publish it shortly. I end by saying that, as far as I can judge, no one could look at the Wentworth Woodhouse MS. without feeling sure that it is the copy actually presented to Duke Humphrey.

H. J. MOULE.

AN ANGLO-SAXON CHARTER.

ORIGINAL Anglo-Saxon charters are so precious, and so rarely does a new one present itself, that like new planets they deserve instant recognition. Hence no excuse is needed if I contribute to the *Athenæum* some notice of an original and genuine charter which has recently

* It may be well to say that the text has been printed by the E.E.T.S. from the only other MS. of it known, which is now in the Bodleian, but which has only six proems, and those the least important ones, and the text marred by three lacunae. In all the Wentworth Woodhouse MS. exceeds the Bodleian MS. by fully eighty stanzas.

passed into our national collection in the British Museum. It is contained on a single parchment measuring 9½ in. high by 6½ in. wide, with a broad flap, 1 in. wide, folded up along the lower edge, still holding the strands of faded yellow floss-silk to which a seal was appended at the time of issue. The text, which is unpublished, is the confirmation by King Edward the Confessor of the foundation of Coventry Minster by Earl Leofric and Godgyuse, better known as the Lady Godiva.

It is contained in twenty-three lines very beautifully written in Anglo-Saxon characters in a dark yellowish-brown ink, and forms a most elegant specimen of eleventh century native palaeography. It is somewhat remarkable that this charter has been overlooked by the editors of the 'Monasticon Anglicanum,' who, in their account of the foundation of St. Mary's Benedictine Nunnery at Coventry by Leofric and Godiva, about A.D. 1043 or 1044, adduce (vol. iii. pp. 190, 191) several Latin texts, but none which bears any resemblance to this. These are (1) Leofric's charter, commencing "Ego Leofric comes cum consilio et licentia regis Edwardi et Alexandri Papae qui mihi literas suas infra-scriptas misit cum sigillo et testimonio aliorum religiosorum virorum," &c.; (2) Edward the Confessor's Latin charter of confirmation of No. 1: "Pax regnans largiflua Christi omnipotentis bonitas," &c., dated 1044; and (3) William the Conqueror's charter in which a passage occurs—"Sicut pie memoris rex Edward cognatus meus melius et plenius.....per cartas suas confirmavit"—which seems to point to at least two charters of Edward, probably this Anglo-Saxon one, here first pointed out, as I believe, from the original document, and the above No. 2. Kemble printed Nos. 1 and 2 in his 'Codex Diplomaticus,' Nos. 939 and 916 respectively, but appears to have been unaware of this Anglo-Saxon form. I hope to exhibit a photograph before one of the antiquarian societies during the coming session. WALTER DE GRAY BIRCH.

'THE HOUSE OF PERCY.'

IN this interesting work there are some points connected with Scottish history whereon the author might with advantage have consulted two official publications—Mr. Stevenson's 'Historical Documents (Scotland), 1285-1306,' 2 vols., and 'Calendar of Documents relating to Scotland in Her Majesty's Public Record Office (1123-1509),' 4 vols.—neither of which appears in his list of authorities. One of these is a matter of heraldry. Speaking of the submission of Robert Bruce the younger and other insurgents to Henry Percy and Robert Clifford as lieutenants of Edward I., made at Irvine on July 9th, 1297, he says (vol. i. p. 57), "The Percy seal attached to this curious document bears the Brabant lion, upon a field ornamented with scrolls, surrounded with the words (indicative of the office in which he was employed), 'Secretum secretorum.'" I examined this elegant signet some years ago very carefully. The word "secretum" has been broken off since Sir Francis Palgrave described it, but it was engraved while perfect in Henry Laing's 'Scottish Seals.' So far from being the Percy lion rampant, it is the lion passant guardant of the Bruces of Annandale, always placed on a chief on their early seals ('Calendar of Scots Documents,' vol. ii. No. 909). Mr. de Fonblanque has thus unwittingly robbed the Bruces!

In a few other matters I might join issue with him, e.g., his reliance on the authority (!) of Henry the Minstrel; his support of Hardyng the forger (p. 189); and the visit of James I. to Scotland in 1416, while a captive (p. 257), which certainly did not take place (see 'Exchequer Rolls of Scotland,' vol. iv. Preface, p. lxxviii). A marriage between a Douglas and an (as yet) unknown Percy before 1484 one would like to have found in the records of the latter house. The lady was Margaret Douglas,

alias Percy, niece of James, ninth and last Earl of Douglas ('Calendar,' *ut supra*, vol. iv. No. 1511).

These remarks are made in no cavilling spirit, for in such a great work everything cannot be before the mind of the author. But we cannot surrender the Bruce's seal, even to his gallant foe Henry Percy.

THE EDITOR OF THE 'CALENDAR.'

Literary Gossip.

MR. WILLIAM SIMPSON, the well-known special artist of the *Illustrated London News*, was duly installed in the chair of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge of Freemasons on the 8th inst. This lodge, of which Sir Charles Warren was the first master, and Mr. Walter Besant (who has been since annually re-elected) the first treasurer, requires either a literary or an artistic qualification of its members. The Correspondence Circle, a literary society attached to the lodge, and consisting of subscribers to its *Transactions*, has reached a total of 447 members, being an increase of nearly 300 during the past year.

IN our obituary notice of Dr. R. G. Latham we expressed a hope that his pension of a hundred pounds would, almost as a matter of course, go to his widow, who at seventy years of age is left with an invalid daughter and totally unprovided for. We are sorry to say that the pressure upon the slender fund at the disposal of the First Lord of the Treasury has been so great that, for the time being at least, he has found it impossible to continue the pension. The case is one of peculiar hardship, and the claims of Dr. Latham's widow are undoubtedly great. A subscription, therefore, is opened for her benefit, and those who feel moved to respond to it are invited to send their contributions to "The Latham Fund" at the London and County Bank, Putney Branch, or to the treasurer, Mr. W. J. Lancaster, Garryowen, Putney Hill, S.W.

MESSRS. KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH & Co. announce the twenty-third edition, which is also the twenty-third thousand, of 'The Epic of Hades.' 'Songs of Two Worlds' reached a thirteenth edition at the beginning of the present publishing season. It is, we believe, no secret that Mr. Morris is one of the happy few whose verse brings them in a substantial yearly income.

So many volumes are now comprised in the current series of *All the Year Round* that Mr. Dickens is going to start a new series in January.

DR. HATCH will begin publishing presently his concordance to the Septuagint version of the Old Testament, to the Greek text of the Apocryphal books, and to the remains of the other versions which formed part of Origen's 'Hexapla.' The texts of the Septuagint version to which it is a concordance are that of the Codex Alexandrinus A, that of the Codex Vaticanus B, that of the Codex Sinaiticus S, and that of the Sixtine edition of 1587, R. As far as possible, and without making the assumption that the Greek is a word-for-word translation of the Hebrew, the concordance gives the Hebrew equivalent of every Greek word in each passage in which it occurs.

MESSRS. SOTHEBY, WILKINSON & HODGE sold on the 13th inst. for 50*l.* an imperfect copy of the 'Myrroure of Ours Lady,' printed

by R. Fawkes in 1530; also a small book by Charles and Mary Lamb, entitled 'Poetry for Children,' printed in London and dated 1809, for 35*l.* The only other copy known of this book is in Mr. Locker-Lampson's library.

PROF. SAYCE is leaving Oxford for a tour in Egypt.

THE Christmas double number of the *English Illustrated Magazine* will contain twelve full-page illustrations. Two—a study in chalk by C. E. Perugini, and 'The Ferry Girl,' by William Padgett—will be printed in monochrome. Five of them illustrate an article on 'Surrey Farmhouses' by Mr. Grant Allen. Among other illustrated papers is 'A Ramble through Normandy,' by Mr. R. Owen Allsop, with illustrations by Mr. H. Railton; 'The Angler's Song,' from Walton's 'Compleat Angler,' with illustrations by Mr. Hugh Thomson; and 'Macbeth on the Stage,' with illustrations after contemporary portraits. Besides the instalments of Mr. Marion Crawford's 'Sant' Ilario' and Mr. Stanley Weyman's 'House of the Wolf,' there will be complete stories by Mr. W. E. Norris and Mr. Arthur Paterson, the author of last year's Christmas number of *All the Year Round*.

MRS. MOLESWORTH's new story, 'A Christmas Posy,' illustrated, as usual, by Mr. Walter Crane, is to be published by Messrs. Macmillan & Co.

THE edition of the first five books of Plato's 'Republic' upon which the President of Magdalen, Mr. T. H. Warren, has been so long engaged, will be published next week by the same firm.

FROM Paris comes the intelligence of the death of Miss K. O'Meara, author of a life of Frederic Ozanam, of a biography of Madame Mohl, and a tale entitled 'Iza.'

ON January 1st will be published the first number of the *Ruskin Reading Guild Journal*, a monthly serial, under the editorship of Mr. William Marwick, of Arbroath, N.B., and an editorial committee, the main object of the publication being to extend the influence of the Ruskin Reading Guild, of which it will be the organ.

UNDER the auspices of the Manchester Free Libraries Committee a series of lectures is in course of delivery at the different libraries. Last week Mr. William E. A. Axon gave, at the Ancoats Library, a lecture entitled 'The Story of Manchester.'

THE Austrian papers mention the death of Prof. A. Horawitz, known by his researches into the history of Humanism. The death is also announced of M. Härtel, the head of the well-known firm of Leipzig publishers MM. Breitkopf & Härtel.

SIR J. H. RAMSAY, BART., will contribute to the December *Antiquary* a further instalment of his investigations of English State finance, dealing with the reigns of Edward V. and Richard III. In the same number the veteran Dr. W. F. Ainsworth will write on 'Certain Points in Syrian Geography,' Mr. Talfourd Ely on 'Temples of Athens,' and Mr. Sparvel-Bayly on 'Church Bells of Essex.'

ICELAND has lost one of her most interesting figures in the person of Dr. Jon Arnason, of Reykjavik, whose death is announced. He was especially famous for

his great private collection of Icelandic sagas. He had been for many years Keeper of the Public Library of Iceland, which has largely developed in his hands, and now contains nearly 30,000 volumes. Few living men have done so much as he to preserve the fading memorials of the history of his country. Arnason was born in 1820.

A CONTRIBUTION to the extensive Goethe literature is to be issued shortly under the title of 'Goethe's Gespräche.' The work, which will be published in parts, will consist of a chronologically arranged collection of all the authentic conversations and utterances of the poet. The well-known *Goethe-kenner* W. von Biedermann is said to be the editor of the compilation.

DR. MILLS, of Oxford, is circulating an invitation to subscribe to the publication of his edition of the Pahlavi, Sanskrit, and Parsi-Persian commentaries and translation of the 'Gāthas' of Zoroaster. The price of the work will be thirty shillings, and it will be ready in a few months. The Secretary of State for India has made a grant of 50% towards the work.

WE have received a communication from Bristol telling us that a person who gives himself out to be the author of 'The Mystery of a Hansom Cab' has been fleeing the booksellers of that city. He is said to be a handsome man of 5 ft. 11 in., with dark hair and complexion, and has "a slight American accent."

THE chief Parliamentary Papers of the week are Local Government Board, Report for 1887-8, Seventeenth Annual (4s. 4d.); United States, Recall of Lord Sackville, Correspondence (1d.); Trade and Navigation, Accounts for October (9d.); Metropolitan Board of Works Commission, Interim Report (6d.); Labour Statistics, Trade Unions, Second Report (2s. 5d.); and Sugar Trade, Return, 1872-87 (5d.).

SCIENCE

The Riverside Natural History. Edited by J. S. Kingsley. 6 vols. (Kegan Paul, Trench & Co.)

WE are very glad that the 'Standard Natural History,' which, under Mr. Kingsley's editorship, appeared some three years ago in the United States, has found an English publisher. It is no concern of ours that in two different countries the same work should appear under different titles, and we willingly ascribe to those to whom the change is due a marked sense of what is in good taste. Some few years ago a large and compendious 'Natural History,' edited by Prof. Duncan, was issued by Messrs. Cassell & Co., and it may well be that some less aggressive title than that of the American was thought to be proper for the English edition of the later work. It would, we think, have been well if the editor or publishers had given the British public notice of the previous appearance of these volumes. We do not know whether a second edition has been called for in America, and can, therefore, only say that in the copy of the American edition before us there are not, as there are in the English, tolerable, if not remarkably excellent or extensive lists of the more important publications on the

several groups described. In every compendious work a bibliographical appendix is of great service, and when there is, as there is here, a fault of which we shall have something to say presently, it becomes a necessary addition.

Whatever was the reason which prompted the change in title, those who are concerned with the publication of the present work have nothing to fear from any comparison. The work before us is better printed, better illustrated, and more handsome in general appearance than Messrs. Cassell's book; it is more often written by better qualified naturalists, and it is more frequently up to date (that is, to 1885). It resembles Messrs. Cassell's book in having an altogether misleading title, for, like it, it is a history of animals and not a natural history; it does not deal with vegetables or with minerals. The staff of writers is large, and includes such well-known zoologists as Messrs. J. A. Allen, S. F. Clarke, E. D. Cope, E. Coues, G. Dimmock, W. Faxon, J. W. Fewkes, S. Garman, D. S. Jordan, W. N. Lockington, C. S. Minot, A. S. Packard, C. V. Riley, W. B. Scott, and L. Stejneger; the zoologist will, or should, know all these names, and he will know that they are all capable of dealing with the subjects entrusted to them.

The illustrations are largely taken from Brehm's well-known work, from Sir Wyville Thomson's two books on deep-sea exploration, and other less-known works; but this is a fact that the reader must find out for himself. Indeed, put into general terms, the fault of which we spoke just now is that in many cases too little reference is made to the workers on whose results the accounts in this book are based. For example, the name of Théel does not occur in connexion with the interesting group of Elaspoda, or deep-sea holothurians, and yet nearly all our present information is due to that naturalist; a long account is given of the life-history of the liver-fluke, but no reference is made to Prof. A. P. Thomas's services in the matter, though in the bibliography his memoir is said to be valuable and interesting. However, this is very much a matter for individual judgment; the writers in these volumes differ from one another; and the addition of the bibliographies leaves little ground for complaint. It is, of course, easy to err on the side of quoting too many authorities, and we by no means complain on the part of any individuals. It is, we believe, an expression of that neglect of the history of zoology which is, unfortunately, a note of many of our younger biologists.

The first volume commences with a useful general introduction, the last part of which contains a sketch of the history of zoology specially written for American students. The rest of the first volume is devoted to the "lower invertebrates." We believe the editor to be right in commencing with the lower and simpler forms of animal life, and so gradually leading up to the complexity which obtains in higher groups.

Zoology is a science which is just now advancing so rapidly that a book prepared before 1885, even though it be dated 1885, is in some points antiquated. Recent researches have shown that Bütschli is quite justified in refusing to accept Haeckel's account of the Monera; Mr. Romya Hitch-

cock accepts the group without any qualification. The account of the Foraminifera from the point of view of rock-forming animals is well done; but it would have been more effective had the pregnant saying of Linnaeus, "Petrofacta montium calciorum non filii sed parentes sunt, cum omnis calx oriatur ab animalibus," been quoted in connexion therewith. Indeed, we believe that a more scholarly method of dealing with natural history questions than that which we commonly see might well be adopted. It is well that men of science should not depend on authority, however eminent; but we of to-day are the intellectual children of Linnaeus and of others, and we stand where we do because they did what they did. Mr. Fewkes repeats the story of Trembley turning a Hydra inside out, and says, "This experiment, which requires very skilful manipulation, has been, I believe, repeated but by one biologist"; Prof. Engelmann and Dr. Marshall have, however, both put on record that they have performed the experiment, although they have not been able to confirm Trembley's results. The account of the hydroid corals is much too short.

It is really a matter for congratulation that there are now in America naturalists who have emancipated themselves from the teaching of Louis Agassiz as to the radiate affinities of the Echinodermata, for the views of that great naturalist have not a little retarded the classification of this phylum. As there is evidence of this reformation in this book, it is not a little curious to find the ophiuroids and the asteroids still grouped in the single class Stellerida; this is a view which is no longer tenable.

Mr. Minot is certainly to be congratulated on his treatment of the very difficult group of worms; within the space assigned him he could not, we think, have done better. The editor deals with the Polyzoa and Brachiopoda under the common head of Molluscoidea, and also with the Mollusca; we think that the more generally accepted division of the latter into Acephala and Cephalophora is more in accordance with the facts of the case than the trifid division of the group which is here adopted. These chapters are most intelligently written.

We have analyzed at some length one volume of the work, selecting it as typical of the rest; before leaving it, therefore, we will give some indication of the way in which it has left the editor's hands. On p. 159 Oreaster and Pentaceros are spoken of as separate genera, but the truth is the terms are synonymous; on p. 174 we find "Calynere" for Calymne, and on p. 175 "Aeropese" for Aerope; *Pennatula rubrum* on p. 123 is bad; the name of the mollusc infested by the larva of the liver-fluke is *Lymanus truncatulus*, not *L. trunculatus*. We think these examples are sufficient to show that the number of misprints very nearly passes the limit of allowance.

The editor, Mr. Packard, and Mr. Riley are the prominent contributors to the second volume, which treats of Crustacea and insects. The third deals with fishes and reptiles. The fourth volume is devoted to birds, and is remarkable for the originality displayed by Dr. Stejneger in his classification of this admittedly difficult group. Dr.

Stejneger's contribution is much more than a *réchauffé* of what is generally known on the subject with which he deals. We are disappointed that the fossil mammals of America have not been described more fully; of the Dinocerata we can find nothing but a citation of Prof. Marsh's monograph in the bibliographical appendix; and figures of the modifications of the limbs in the horse tribe might appropriately have been given.

Though it seems a little out of proportion to give a whole volume—the sixth and last—on the single species which, with superb effrontery, Linneus called *Homo sapiens*, we may congratulate ourselves on getting it. It is right and proper that man should find his place in a history of animals, and this, again, is one of the many points in which this work is to be preferred to that English compilation with which it is impossible to refrain from continually comparing it. If we have found fault with parts, it is because we should like to see it improved if it should come to another edition. As it stands, it is a work which we have no hesitation in warmly commending to the lover of natural history and to the educated reader who desires to extend and improve his acquaintance with the habits and structure of animals.

Granites and our Granite Industries. By George F. Harris, F.G.S. (Crosby Lockwood & Son).—The origin of this little work is to be sought in a series of articles on building stones contributed by the author a year or two ago to the columns of the *Builder*. Considering the growing importance of granite as a constructive material, and the little that has been written about its industrial uses, it was rather a happy notion to amplify the original articles relating to this rock, and to republish them in their expanded form as an independent work. Mr. Harris prepared himself for his task by visiting the principal granite-producing districts; but besides this preparation he wisely secured the assistance of quarry owners and granite merchants in various parts of the country. In this way he has been able to produce a work which, if it does not satisfy the requirements of modern petrography, is at least a useful addition to our technological literature. It contains, in fact, a good deal of trustworthy information respecting the occurrence of granite in the quarry and the methods by which it is prepared for the market.

An Elementary Text-Book of Practical Metallurgy. By Alfred Roland Gower. (Chapman & Hall).—Now that metallurgy is being practically taught in many laboratories connected with classes under the Science and Art Department, teachers are becoming sensible of the want of a suitable guide to laboratory work for the use of elementary students. Such a want Mr. Gower has sought to meet by the publication of this little text-book. It is a practical guide to metallurgical chemistry, adapted to the needs of students who are working up to the syllabus of the Department. The student is instructed how to perform a long series of experiments, which have been selected with the view of throwing light upon the reactions in the furnace and in metallurgical operations upon an industrial scale. It would be wrong for any one to take up the subject of assaying or of metallurgy without a groundwork of theoretical and practical chemistry; but by those who have acquired a fair knowledge of chemical science no difficulty should be experienced in carrying out Mr. Gower's instructions.

WOLVERIDGE'S 'SPECULUM MATRICIS.'

I VENTURE to send this note to the *Athenæum* in the hope that it may elicit some information concerning the very scarce book above mentioned. The book in question is the first original work on midwifery in English. Dr. Fordyce Barker, of New York, had a copy which was supposed to be unique, and this he gave into the hands of a copyist so that a MS. copy might be made for the Obstetrical Society of London. The man, a Frenchman named Bourgeaud, did not return the book, and probably did not finish the copy. After an interval of nearly five years Dr. Fordyce Barker traced Bourgeaud to a tavern in New York, and on inquiry found that he had died there and that his box had been removed by a friend. Since then nothing has been heard of this copy of the 'Speculum.' A note in the *British Medical Journal* drawing attention to this loss brought out the information that there were two other copies in existence, one in the Radford Library at St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, and another the property of Mr. J. L. Jardine. This latter book, which has some of the pages supplied in MS. from the Manchester copy, was presented to the library of the Royal College of Surgeons by Mr. Jardine.

The title of the book is "Speculum | Matricis; | or, the | Expert Midwives | Handmaid. | Catechistically composed, | by | James Wolveridge, | M.D., | with a copious alphabetical index," London, 1671.

On looking through the copy in the College of Surgeons' Library I was much puzzled by the following statement in the "Author to the Reader," as I could not find anything on the title-page to correspond with the "Irish Garb" to which the author refers:—

"Though the Title-Page* may arrive your view in an Irish Garb, with her Handmaid bare-foot, and bare-legg'd: or at the best, in Brogues and Kerchers, (according to the Custome of the Country;) yet, be assured, it hath an English dress under an Irish mantle; it being never intended for the Irish, (though I heartily wish it may be serviceable to them also, if occasion be,) whose fruitfulness is such, that there is scarce one barren among them....."

On reference to the Bodleian catalogue I found the book entered as "Speculum Matricis Hybernicum, or the Irish Midwives Handmaid, Lond., 1670"; and on examination of this copy it was readily seen that the book had been issued in 1670 with the title as in the Bodleian catalogue, and that in 1671 a new title had been printed, omitting all reference to "Hybernicum." So far as I can find the Bodleian copy is unique, unless Dr. Barker's copy be still in existence. This is said to have been published in Dublin in 1670, but in all probability it is the same edition as that in the Bodleian.

JAMES BLAKE BAILEY.

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

THE account of Count Teleki's highly successful expedition into the Masai country, just published in the *Mittheilungen* of the Vienna Geographical Society, will be read with exceptional interest at the present moment. Count Teleki left Pangani on the 31st of January, 1887, and as he returned to Zanzibar towards the end of last month he has been absent altogether for a period of nearly twenty months. During that period he attempted an ascent of the Kilimanjaro; he paid a visit to Mount Meru, climbed Mount Kenia to an altitude of about 16,000 ft., explored the vicinity of Lake Baringo, and ultimately capped his previous achievements by the discovery of the Baso-n'erok, or "Black Lake," which lies to the west of Samburu, a district well known to the Suaheli traders, and extends far to the north of latitude 2° N. The narrative in the *Mittheilungen* only carries us as far as Lake Baringo, but from information collected by the count we learn that the shores of this lake are inhabited

by the Turkan, an industrious tribe, who we know keep up communications with Emin Pasha. The journey is illustrated by a view of Mount Kenia and by a map of the country to the north-west of it, for which we are indebted to Lieut. Höhnel, of the Austrian navy, the count's scientific companion. Mr. Jos. Thomson, who is expected to leave England in the course of a few weeks in order to assume the command of an expedition fitted out by the British East African Company and destined for the Upper Nile, will be able to profit by the Hungarian count's experience.

The current number of the Royal Geographical Society's *Proceedings* contains an interesting, but very brief review by Mr. E. Delmar Morgan of the late General Prejevalsky's last book of travel, i.e., the account of his explorations from 1883 to 1885. These explorations were probably the most important, from a geographical point of view, of any of those undertaken by Prejevalsky, for he appears to have discovered the sources of the Hoang-Ho, to have explored a most obscure region, the western part of the Tsaidam depression, and to have traced its connexion with the basin of Lob Nor. It may be remembered that in some of the old Chinese geographical works it is stated that the Tarim river, after flowing into Lake Lob and thence disappearing into the bowels of the earth, reappears in the sources of the Hoang-Ho, and so eventually reaches the ocean. The idea is, of course, ridiculous, the altitudes alone, to say nothing of the distance, making the thing an absurdity; but it is a curious fact that close where the sources of the Hoang-Ho lie there are streams which rise on the other side of the mountain, and which would appear to flow eastward in the direction of Lake Lob, and how near they may go towards reaching that hydrographic basin it will be interesting to trace by the light of General Prejevalsky's book. The special chapter (the seventh) devoted to this part of the journey will be translated in full in the form of one of the Supplementary Papers of the Society. Another notable point is the discovery of the existence of a magnificent alpine region between the upper waters of the Hoang-Ho and the Yang-tse-kiang—a physical peculiarity which may probably have some connexion with the remarkably luxuriant belt of country which, owing to climatic causes, is found to mark the north-eastern escarpment of the Tibetan plateau. There are other matters in Prejevalsky's book—such as the Machins, a race possessing some remarkable physical characteristics—which are not referred to in Mr. Morgan's review, but which unite in making us wish that a translation *in extenso* of so remarkable a work may soon be presented to the English reader, if it were only in commemoration of one of the most distinguished scientific travellers of our time.

The circumstantial information on Mr. Stanley published by Messrs. Reuter, we are informed by the *Times* correspondent at Zanzibar, is "altogether discredited" there, no news of the explorer having recently been received.

Mr. Silva White, in the *Scottish Geographical Magazine*, publishes an instructive 'Note on the Distribution of Trade-Centres,' illustrated by a map by Mr. J. G. Bartholomew, who distinguishes by colours (1) regions at present engaged in international commerce; (2) regions capable of commercial development, but at present undeveloped; (3) regions open to commercial enterprise only during summer months; and (4) barren and desert regions incapable of commercial development. This classification, to say the least of it, is not quite satisfactory, whilst its interpretation, as given on the face of the map, is in many instances misleading. Why, for instance, should Greenland, and, in fact, the whole of the Arctic regions, be declared to be incapable of commercial development? and how can Northern Europe (Archangel) and nearly the whole of Asia down to Corea be described as "open to commercial enterprise

* Title in margin: 'Speculum matricis; or the Irish Midwives Handmaid,' &c.

only during the summer months"? In the same magazine will be found a readable article on recent 'Russian Geographical Surveys,' by Mr. Delmar Morgan.

The *Photo Relief-Map of South London*, by H. F. Brion and Rev. Edmund M'Clure, M.A. (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge), has the hill features strongly marked, but can scarcely be called attractive.

The *Charterhouse Oxford and Cambridge Atlas* (Relfe Brothers) is indebted for its title to the fact that its publishers occupy Charterhouse Buildings. The maps are by Mr. John Bartholomew, and are quite up to the standard looked for by an average British public.

ASTRONOMICAL NOTES.

THE orbit of the comet (*f*, 1888) which was discovered by Mr. Barnard at the Lick Observatory, California, on the morning of the 31st ult., has been computed by Prof. Krüger, and it appears that the comet passed its perihelion so long ago as the 8th of September, at the distance from the sun of 1.19 in terms of the earth's mean distance. Its distance from the earth (which is now about 1.65 on the above scale) is diminishing, so that the decrease in the apparent brightness will, throughout the present month, continue to be very slight. The comet is still moving slowly in the southern part of the constellation Sextans, its approximate place for the 20th inst. (at midnight) being R.A. $10^h 10^m$, N.P.D. $101^\circ 34'$.

The comet (*c*, 1888) discovered by the same astronomer on the 2nd of September will attain its greatest apparent brightness next week. It is now in the constellation Eridanus, moving towards Cetus, the approximate places for next week (from the ephemeris of Herr Berberich, computed for midnight at Berlin) being:—

	R.A.	N.P.D.
Nov.	h. m.	
18	3 45	92 43
19	3 38	93 7
20	3 31	93 27
21	3 24	93 46
22	3 17	94 4
23	3 10	94 22
24	3 3	94 39
25	2 56	94 55

Circular No. 22 of the Wolsingham Observatory states that "Mr. Backhouse informs us that *ζ Herculis* has increased in light," and that "Mr. Gore confirms the observation."

SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL.—Nov. 7.—Dr. W. T. Blanford, President, in the chair.—Mr. D. Clague was elected a Fellow, and Prof. C. Renevier, of Lausanne, a Foreign Member.—The following communications were read: 'The Permian Rocks of the Leicestershire Coal-field,' by Mr. H. T. Brown, and 'On the Superficial Geology of the Central Plateau of North-western Canada,' by Mr. J. B. Tyrrell.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—Nov. 1.—Mr. J. T. Micklethwaite, V.P., in the chair.—Mr. G. E. Fox read a paper 'On Roman Architectural Fragments found in Leicester, and now preserved in the Town Hall.' Mr. Fox began with a sketch of the site on which these fragments have been found, showing the limits of the area of the Roman city of Rata. He then described the fragments in detail. They consist principally of the bases and capitals of columns, with portions of their shafts, in two instances found *in situ* and indicating the existence of important buildings. The paper then dealt with all the examples of mosaic pavements found in Leicester or on the site of a villa just outside the Roman city, and now preserved in the museum. Finally, Mr. Fox gave a valuable analysis of the sections of the mouldings of the architectural fragments, endeavouring to draw, from a comparison of them with examples of known date in Rome, an idea of the probable date or period of the buildings in Roman Leicester to which they belonged.—Mr. E. Peacock sent a note on a peculiar dripstone on the tower of the church of Kirton-in-Lindsey.—Mr. C. D. E. Fortnum exhibited a drawing, by Mr. Steinmetz, showing the new south transept of St. Alban's, the old one, and the "five sisters" at York—the supposed type of the windows in the new transept of St. Alban's. Mr. Steinmetz asked, "Will it be believed that the ceiling of the transept at St. Alban's cuts this extraordinary five-light window in two, and

the St. Alban's sisters are provided with another set of heads internally, disguised by some means of blackened felt from being seen externally?"

ENTOMOLOGICAL.—Nov. 7.—Dr. D. Sharp, President, in the chair.—Dr. H. Stuart-Fremelin and Mr. G. V. Hudson were elected Fellows.—M. Wailly exhibited a large and interesting collection of butterflies recently received from the Gold Coast and other parts of West Africa. The collection included about forty-seven species belonging to the genera *Papilio*, *Diadema*, *Romaleosoma*, *Charaxes*, *Harma*, *Euryphe*, *Junonia*, *Mycalesis*, *Cyrestis*, *Mylothris*, &c. M. Wailly stated that several of the species were undescribed, and were not represented in the British Museum collections.—Mr. Jenner-Weir exhibited four specimens of ant-lions, two of which were from Switzerland, and the other two from Fontainebleau. He stated that he believed the specimens represented two distinct species.—Mr. M'Lachlan said that the specimens all belonged to one species (*Myrmecoleon formicarius*), and that the differences between them were merely sexual.—Mr. W. C. Boyd exhibited an example of *Pterophorus zetterstedtii*, taken at Sydenham. He remarked that this species had hitherto only been recorded from Lynmouth and Folkestone.—Mr. Enock exhibited specimens of *Cecidomyia destructor* (Hessian fly) illustrating the life-history of the species, and made remarks on them.—Mr. W. Kew exhibited a specimen of *Dytiscus marginalis* having a small bivalve shell attached to one of its legs. The bivalve had apparently attacked the Dytiscus and refused to relax its grasp. A discussion ensued, in which Dr. Sharp, Mr. Stainton, and Mr. Kew took part.—Mr. W. E. Nicholson exhibited several specimens of *Acidalia immorata*, Linn., caught by him near Lewes.—Mr. Jenner-Weir remarked that the species had only recently been added to the British list, and that it was remarkable how so comparatively large a species could have been hitherto overlooked.—Dr. Sharp exhibited a large number of species of Rhynchophora collected by Mr. G. Lewis in Japan.—Mr. F. P. Pascoe read a paper entitled 'Descriptions of New Longicorn Coleoptera.'—Dr. Sharp read a paper 'On Japanese Rhynchophora.'

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Nov. 13.—Sir G. B. Bruce, President, in the chair.—The medals, premiums, and prizes awarded by the Council at the close of the last session were distributed, and a replica of a portrait of the late Mr. T. E. Harrison, Past-President, by Mr. Outless, was formally presented to the Institution.—The President announced that Lord Armstrong, C.B., Past-President, had offered to contribute any sum not exceeding 5,000*l.* to the Benevolent Fund attached to the Institution provided the members among them would raise a similar amount.—The paper read was 'On Friction-Brake Dynamometers,' by Mr. W. W. Beaumont.

MATHEMATICAL.—Nov. 8.—Sir J. Cockle, President, in the chair.—The Chairman opened the proceedings by informing the members of the death, during the recess, of Mr. A. Buchheim, and in feeling terms dwelt upon the loss the Council and the Society had sustained thereby.—The gentlemen whose names were recently given in our pages having been duly elected to form the Council for the session, the new President (Mr. J. J. Walker) took the chair, and called upon the retiring President to read his address 'On the Confluences and Bifurcations of certain Theories.'—The following communications were then made: 'On Cyclotomic Functions: §1, Groups of Totitives of *n*; §2, Periods of *n*th Roots of Unity,' by Prof. L. Tanner, 'On a Theory of Rational Symmetric Functions,' by Capt. P. A. MacMahon, 'The Factors and Summation of $1+2+...+n$,' by the Rev. J. J. Milne, 'Raabe's Bernoullians,' by Mr. J. D. H. Dickson, 'Certain Algebraical Results deduced from the Geometry of the Quadrangle and Tetrahedron,' by Dr. Wolstenholme, 'On a certain Atomic Hypothesis,' by Prof. K. Pearson, and 'On Deep-Water Waves resulting from a limited Original Disturbance,' by Prof. W. Burnside.

NEW SHAKSPEARE.—Nov. 9.—Dr. R. Garnett in the chair.—Mr. H. B. Wheatley read a paper 'On A. van Buchell's Copy of Johannes de Witt's Account of the Swan and other Theatres in London and Southwark about 1596, as published by Dr. Gaedertz.' The points at issue, Mr. Wheatley said, were three. Firstly, to whom was the information due to De Witt or Van Buchell? Dr. Gaedertz did not make this very clear. Secondly, the construction of the theatre from flint. It should be noticed that in the detailed contract for the building of Henslow's theatre, "like the Swan," there was no mention of flint. Thirdly, the statement that the theatre held three thousand people. In this Mr. Wheatley did not find any serious difficulty, after making due allowance for the looseness of a tra-

veller's report. On a rough calculation from the sketch which accompanies the description he thought he could make out accommodation for two thousand. An amphitheatre, as this was expressly stated to be, would hold more than a theatre. Dr. Gaedertz appeared to be mistaken in placing De Witt's visit to London in 1596, as the Swan Theatre was not built till 1598-9.—The Chairman gave an interesting account of the 'Pyramus and Thisbe' woodcut in the volume, which he thought might possibly have suggested to Shakespeare his burlesque treatment of that tragedy. Flints, he noticed, were very common in Kent, and at a very short distance from the Banksie. As to the sketch, the question was, Was it De Witt's own—autoptical—or was it drawn by Van Buchell from De Witt's description (observationibus)?—Dr. Furnival remarked that the whole question turned upon the meaning of "ex observationibus." As to the possible audience of three thousand, the quotation expressly said that the theatre would *seat* that number, which, with the standing-room in the arena, would go far to make accommodation for five thousand, which he was quite unable to believe.—It was the general feeling of the meeting that an ordinary observer's estimate of any large number was quite untrustworthy.

PHYSICAL.—Nov. 10.—Prof. Reinold, President, in the chair.—The following communications were read: 'On the Calculation of the Coefficient of Mutual Induction of a Helix and Coaxial Circle,' by Prof. J. V. Jones, 'On the Upper Limit of Refraction in Selenium and Bromine,' by the Rev. T. Pelham Dale, 'Experiments on Glass in Polarized Light,' by Prof. S. P. Thompson, and 'On a New Form of Standard Resistance Coil,' by Dr. J. A. Fleming.

SHORTHAND.—Nov. 7.—Mr. J. G. Petrie, President, in the chair.—The following new members were elected:—Fellows: Messrs. A. O. Eaves, F. T. Gissing, W. Heather, T. Kayser, R. McCaskie, O. McEwan, and T. Malone; Associates: Miss M. P. Ellis, Messrs. E. Anderson, G. Anson, L. Barritt, J. T. Bold, H. L. Callender, W. Digby, J. R. Gregg, J. Mogford, L. Munden, S. H. Sutton, H. O. Thompson, and G. F. Vincent. The following appointments were made: Mr. T. Wright to be Hon. Librarian; Mr. E. Guest to be Joint Hon. Foreign Secretary; and Mr. F. T. Gissing to be Hon. Local Secretary for the Eastern Counties.—The President delivered his inaugural address, in which he referred to the work done by the Society and the accession of new members, exceeding any former number elected at one meeting. He considered that public speaking had increased in rapidity during the past twenty years, due probably to the neglect of the study of elocution. This increased speed would necessarily limit the number of efficient professional shorthand writers, who had, therefore, no reason to fear the popularization of shorthand or the introduction of reporting or speaking machines. The wonderful speed attained with the type-writer was alluded to, also the capabilities of the phonograph and the graphophone; but all these means of rapid writing would be made an aid to the more rapid transcript of his notes by the professional shorthand writer, but would never become his competitors.—An exhibition of Tainter's graphophone was then given by Messrs. Howard and Longbottom.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Mon. Royal Academy, 4.—'Chemistry,' Mr. A. H. Church.
- London Institution, 5.—'Time and Tide: the Romance of Modern Science,' Sir R. S. Ball.
- Aristotelian, 8.—'The Growth and Progress of Moral Ideas,' Mr. S. Alexander.
- Tues. Statistical, 6.—Inaugural Address by the President.
- Civil Engineers, 8.—Discussion on Mr. W. W. Beaumont's Paper, 'Friction-Brake Dynamometers.'
- Zoological, 8.—Contributions to the Skeletal Anatomy of the Mesosuchia, based on Fossil Remains from the Clays near Peterborough, in the Collection of Mr. A. Leids, Mr. J. W. Hulke; 'Small Mammals of Duval County, South Texas,' Mr. Mammals obtained by Mr. C. M. Woodford during his Second Expedition to the Solomon Islands, Mr. O. Thomas; 'Los Suplementarios des Oiseaux recueillis en Corée par M. J. Kainowski,' M. L. Taczanowski.
- Weds. Meteorological, 7.—Results of an Investigation of the Phenomena of English Thunderstorms during the Years 1857-80, Mr. G. J. Symonds; 'Notes on the Meeting of the International Meteorological Committee at Zurich in September, 1888,' Mr. R. H. Scott.
- Geological, 8.—Notes on the Remains and Affinities of Five Genera of Mesozoic Reptiles, Mr. E. Lydekker; 'Notes on the Radiolaria of the London Clay,' Mr. W. H. Sharpe; 'Description of a New Species of Clupea (*C. vancouveriensis*) from Olympic Strata in the Isle of Wight,' Mr. E. T. Newton.
- Librarian, 8.—'Carle's History,' Mr. J. Dixon.
- Society of Arts, 8.—Opening Address by the Duke of Abercorn.
- British Archaeological Association, 8.—Relics and Remains of William and Mary, Mr. H. Syer Cuning; 'Early British Cemeteries found at Dunbar, Hants,' Mr. J. Stevens.
- Thurs. Royal Academy, 4.—'Chemistry,' Mr. A. H. Church.
- London Institution, 6.—'Electrical Transmission of Power,' Prof. W. E. Arrol.
- Telegraph Engineers, 8.—'A System of Electrical Distribution,' Mr. H. Edmunds.
- Antiquaries, 8.
- Sat. Physical, 3.—Measurement of the Luminosity of Coloured Surfaces, Capt. Abney; 'Suppressed Dimensions of Physical Quantities,' Prof. Rüchker.
- Botanic, 9.—Election of Fellows.

Science Gossip.

THE Copley Medal of the Royal Society has this year been awarded to Prof. Huxley in recognition of his investigations into the morphology and histology of vertebrate and invertebrate animals, and for his services to biological science in general during many past years. The Rumford Medal is to be given to Prof. Tacchini, renowned for his researches in solar physics, and the Davy Medal to Mr. Crookes for his researches on the electric discharge in high vacua. The Queen has approved the award of the Royal Medals to Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, the Australian botanist, and to Prof. Osborne Reynolds, of Owens College, for his researches in mathematical and experimental physics. The medals will, as usual, be presented at the anniversary meeting of the Society on St. Andrew's Day.

It has been determined to issue the papers by the late President of the Royal Society, Dr. W. Spottiswoode, in a collected form. The task of collecting and editing the pure mathematical papers has been entrusted by Mrs. Spottiswoode to Mr. R. Tucker, the editor of Clifford's 'Mathematical Papers.'

WHEN visiting Bath during the recent meeting of the British Association, Mr. G. J. Symons found in the Jenyns Library a MS. of the original daily records kept by the Rev. James Cowe at Sunbury Vicarage, Middlesex, from 1795 to 1839. It gives barometer, maximum and minimum temperature, wind, rain, and remarks for each day. The cost of copying it and of preparing a lithographed reproduction will be about 65*l.*, and Mr. Symons hopes that sixty persons may be found willing to subscribe 1*l.* each. 2*sh.* are already promised.

GERMAN papers announce the death of Hof-rath H. v. Bamberger, of Vienna, the distinguished pathologist. Besides his technical works, such as his treatise on heart disease, he wrote a volume on 'Bacon von Verulam, vom Medicinischen Standpunkte.'

FINE ARTS

THE ANNUAL WINTER EXHIBITION OF OIL PAINTINGS by ARTISTS OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN SCHOOLS is NOW OPEN at Thomas McLean's Gallery, 7, Haymarket, next the Theatre.—Admission, including Catalogue, 1*s.*

ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION SOCIETY, the New Gallery, Essex Street.—OPEN DAILY, 10 to 7.—Admission, 1*s.*; Catalogue, 1*s.* EVENINGS, 7 to 10 (Thursdays excepted).—Admission, 6*d.*; Catalogue, 6*d.*

'THE VALE OF TRANS-JORDAN'S LAST GREAT PICTURE,' completed a few days before he died, NOW ON VIEW at the Doré Gallery, 5, New Bond Street, with 'Christ leaving the Praetorium,' 'Christ's Entry into Jerusalem,' 'The Dream of Pilate's Wife,' and his other past pictures. From 10 to 6 Daily.—Admission, 1*s.*

The Church Bells of Kent: their Inscriptions, Founders, Uses, and Traditions. By J. C. L. Stahlschmidt. Illustrated. (Stock.)

MR. STAHLSCHMIDT very unnecessarily apologizes for having published his book after he had been told that an antiquary of greater knowledge would thereby be forestalled in his purpose of writing on the church bells of Kent. The subject is large enough for both, and the antiquarian would cannot afford to lose a completed work because another scholar has the same subject in view. The army of campanologists, never numerous, has been sadly reduced lately by the deaths of the patriarch of the study, the Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, of Thomas North, and the accomplished Llewellynn Jewitt, who left unfinished his book on Derbyshire bells. We join with Mr. Stahlschmidt in hoping that work may be revised and completed by the best living authority on Derbyshire bells, Mr. St. John Hope.

Mr. Stahlschmidt confesses to having shirked researches among the Sacrit Rolls

of Canterbury Cathedral, which probably contain not a little information, as the great church was always celebrated for its bells. It is a pity he did not bestow as much attention on the history of "Bell Harry" in the central tower, the Arundel ring of five bells, and their successor, "Great Dunstan," as on the county bells in general. For the latter he has obtained abundant help from the local clergy, who, it is evident, do a good deal of "steeple chasing" and climbing.

Mr. Stahlschmidt has ascertained the ages of a large part of the bells of Kent (they number nearly two thousand) by grouping them according to the signatures and other stamps of the founders. The further this process is extended the easier it will be to find the history of the art and fully illustrate the archaeology of bells. After settling the chronology of his subject, he gives his details under the parishes arranged alphabetically, and among these is to be found much curious matter. Curfew is still largely observed in Kent; it is, of course, purely secular. But other counties exhibit more numerous instances of this practice, and it is, sad to say, dying out in Kent. We are told that within living memory Folkestone, Ickham, Loose, Milton-by-Sittingbourne, Staplehurst, and Westerham have discontinued it. Pancake bell has ceased in Kent, though Milton-by-Sittingbourne and Westerham till recent times retained it. The abolition of church rates has condemned to silence many a fine peal. Birchington's five bells are silent, because out of order. Will not some one put them right for Rossetti's sake? The bell records extend from 1532.

The "ancients" of Kent amount to thirty-one with Lombardic lettering, and only eighty-one with Gothic lettering. It will hardly be believed that the bell of the Lombardic class at Cuxton was recast a few years ago, while of the Gothic bells eight have "disappeared recently." When such things can happen, it was, indeed, time some one told the world how many bells now exist in Kent that have been recognized as older than the seventeenth century. A curious paper might be written on the destruction of bells, and a leading part of it would be formed by the ringers' verses (a few are given in this volume, but they are rare in Kent) still to be found in many bell-chambers, which clearly show how completely the various societies of "college youths" of the last century had taken possession of the campaniles and their bells.

The most interesting bell in Kent is that of Leeds Castle, which for four centuries and a half has rung curfew. The very curious long-waisted bells at All Saints', Iwade, which were long taken for ships' bells, and supposed to be of Dutch manufacture, seem to be the oldest church bells. The next in order of time are those at Coldred, Lullingstone, and Sutton-by-Dover, all probably much older than 1350. Stodmarsh, No. 1, with its reversed inscription, "Ave Gratia plena," is a twenty-four inch bell of the early part of the fourteenth century, and to be honoured for its antiquity even more than for the fact that its somewhat larger companion, No. 2, has been doing duty with it since Elizabeth's time. The Coldred bell seems to have had a companion in its Early

English bell-gable, which has room for two bells, though there is no record of more than one, and that has faced the weather for over five hundred years. The bell-gable is at the west end of the church, a rare thing in England. The churchyard is enclosed by an earthen bank, apparently of great antiquity. Snargate, No. 3, bears the invocation of St. Dunstan, tutelary of the church, and is a most distinguished ancient; its companion, No. 1, an "Hail Mary!" bell, is another ancient, but not so old. No. 2 has hung between Nos. 1 and 3 for more than two hundred years, and attests the good workmanship of the well-known firm of John Hodson, of London, whose works are found at St. Mary Cray, Farningham, Milton-next-Gravesend, Sundridge, St. Nicholas-at-Wade, and elsewhere numerously.

The next solid fact throwing light on the age of Kentish church bells is that Burnham, No. 2, bears the name of Richard de Wymbish (1290-1315), a highly important London founder, of whom we made mention when reviewing Mr. Stahlschmidt's 'Surrey Bells.' Chalk No. 2 follows with its inscription, "XPE. Pie. Flos Marie." It bears a curious cross flory within a lozenge, which our author has not found in inscriptions similar in lettering to that of the invocation. Mr. Stahlschmidt has discovered, he thinks, the name of the founder of the next group of eight bells, which are found near and in the capital of Kent, that is, at Bridge, St. Dunstan's, St. George's, and St. Peter's, Canterbury, and at Kingstone, Patricbourne, and Postling in the county, all dating from c. 1350. In the 'Feet of Fines,' 18 Edward II. (1325), there is a record that in that year William le Belyetere bought a house at Canterbury of certain persons named. The date agrees with the character of the bells, although they may be later. The evidence that William le Belyetere cast these bells is good, but it is not conclusive, and the author's assumption that it is so will warn his readers to be cautious about accepting all the statements in this book. His "I think we may take it for granted" is hardly proof that a certain "Johanne, widowe" of Richard Hille of London—whose bell motto was

Sum Rosa Pulsata Mundi Maria Vocata, and who contracted with the inhabitants of Faversham for five new bells—was the same as "Johane Sturdy, of Londone, widowe." Mr. Stahlschmidt must excuse us, but we can hardly think "I. S." on Stoke D'Abernon bell and others need be the signature of Johanna Sturdy in her second widowhood. We trust she did marry the John Sturdy who lived in St. Botolph, Aldgate, but there is no evidence to that effect. All we know is that Richard Hille's will was proved in 1440, and that he left a wife and daughter, both named Johanna, to the latter of whom he bequeathed two hundred marks. She married Henry Jordan, renowned in bell-casting; her mother carried on Hille's business, and contracted to work at Faversham. Nothing more is certain.

Dryasdusts have, however, reason to be grateful to our author for having identified beyond reasonable doubt a distinguished bell-maker of London, William Dawe by

name (whose works survive with dates ranging from 1385 to 1418), William Founder as he described himself. In the same ward of the City (where bell-founders abounded during the Middle Ages) there was another William Dawe, a white-tawyer, or dresser of white leather, who worked in *album græcum*—a circumstance which doubtless made the other William anxious not to be confused with him.

Bells are and have always been expensive and troublesome things, constantly needing repair, new ropes, and whatnot. Many curious details, furnished by the Vicar of Aylesford to Mr. Stahlschmidt from the parish accounts, show this. From 1608-9, when they begin, new baldrics, clappers, ropes, pins, wheels, and what not were frequently entered as paid for, besides 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* for casting No. 3 in 1632-3, with "52*li.* of newe mettall at xij the pounce," and money for helping to hang the same and carting it home. It was not till 1660 that "the Ringers" began to be paid, and thenceforward we hear of new bells more than once. This was a matter of course when ringing "peals" came into vogue, and "beers" was found for the "College Youths." Before 1712, when the record ceases, the damage done was very great. After this much harm was done by the noisy practice of ringing "triple bob-majors," which, as we have often remarked, has brought down many a steeple and tower. Among curious uses for out-of-the-way things may be noted that the grease from bell-gudgeons was considered infallible for ringworm. The Vicar of Bethenden has supplied an even more copious record of his parish expenses since 1514, including many "a newe bel Rouppe" and a "galan of oyl." Mr. Stahlschmidt need not have loaded his text with so many parish accounts; a severe process of selection would have reduced the mass to useful examples.

Kentish bell invocations are much less pathetic than those we have noticed in other counties. "Joseph Hatch made me, 1624," is common, but not touching. It is clear that in 1807 Edenbridge kept a poet, who wrote

When female virtue weds with manly worth
We catch the rapture and we spread it forth.
The Ringers Art our grateful Notes prolong,
Apollo listens and approves the Song,

may seem out of place on No. 4 of Bromley, but they did not think so in 1717. There is something like "caw me, caw thee," in No. 2 at Sevenoaks, which states, "If you Have a Judicious Ear, You'll own my Voice is sweet & Clear. Pack & Chapman of London Fecit [*sic*] 1769."

AN ANCIENT PLAN OF CAMBRIDGE.

Scroope House, Cambridge, Nov. 14, 1888.

THE Bodleian Library contains a very valuable map of Cambridge, made by John Hamond, of Clare Hall, in 1592. It is the first measured plan, so far as we know, with a scale appended; and the careful examination to which it was subjected by the late Prof. Willis showed that the more important distances are laid down with remarkable accuracy. The buildings are drawn in perspective, after the manner of a bird's-eye view, and though the scale is too small to show detail, it is easy to understand their general disposition, and to note the more important differences in their arrangement which took place between 1592 and 1690, when Loggan's views were drawn.

It is engraved on copper, and was originally

printed in nine separate pieces, each about fifteen inches wide by twelve inches high. These, when pasted together, make a large plate about four feet wide by three feet high.

The copy in the Bodleian has long been believed to be unique, and certainly no other library in this country contains the whole plan. It is, however, possible that some of the separate pieces may exist without their possessors knowing to what town they belong. It is to this possibility that I wish to draw attention.

A few days since a copy of the central piece was discovered here in a portfolio. The gentleman who had had it in his possession for many years had been quite ignorant of its value. What makes the discovery more interesting is that the piece now found happens in the Bodleian copy to be seriously damaged by damp. It contains Trinity College, and is the only authority for the curious arrangement of the buildings which subsisted until Dr. Thomas Neville, with the help of the architect Symons, laid out the Great Court.

Hamond's map is fully described in my edition of Prof. Willis's 'Architectural History of the University of Cambridge,' vol. i. pp. ci-civ.

JOHN WILLIS CLARK.

Five Art Gossipy.

ON Thursday next, at the opening meeting of the session of the Society of Antiquaries, the Queen will exhibit a portrait of Mary, Queen of Scots, from Osborne House, on which Mr. George Scharf will make some observations.

It appears it was not due to any particular wisdom on the part of the managers of the Institute of Painters in Oil Colours that their visitors were able to congratulate themselves on the reduction in the number of pictures. The announcement that the exhibition would be opened more than a month earlier than usual took tardy painters by surprise. The consequence was that many of them could not get their pot-boilers finished in time for the sending-in day at the Institute; and upon the unlucky Society of British Artists have been poured not fewer than 2,500 works, exclusive of those which, coming from members, will have places in Suffolk Street by right.

THE private view of the exhibition of the Society of British Artists will be held on Saturday. On the same day Messrs. Buck & Reid will have a private view of pastoral landscapes by Mr. W. Estall; and Messrs. Marcus Ward & Co. of a large number of drawings at Messrs. Foster's in Pall Mall.

THE Burlington Fine-Arts Club having finished collecting and arranging the drawings in water colours and in black and white of John S. Cotman, to which we have already referred, has invited all who can obtain tickets from members to see the same daily between 10 and 4 o'clock. Mr. Mendoza has opened a collection of pictures and examples in black and white at his gallery in King Street, St. James's. Mr. Lefèvre, in the same street, has on view 'The Quartet,' painted by M. B. Lajos.

THE great hoarding which conceals the new work at the north transept of Westminster Abbey had till lately an opening in the middle through which the rose window might be seen. It has now been closed with boards like the rest. We hope that this is not a sign that the story told us a fortnight ago is true, and that the window is to be destroyed.

MR. LOWES DICKINSON has finished an effective and characteristic portrait (life size, three-quarters length) of the late Sir Henry Maine. He is seated with a book in his right hand. He leans his chin in his left hand, and looks forward with an intense expression that is well conceived and free from melodrama. He wears the Star of India. It is intended for Trinity Hall, Cambridge. Mr. Lowes Dickinson has

likewise just finished a portrait, which was begun some years ago, for Lord Napier of Magdala, a life-size, three-quarters-length figure, seated in a chair near a table on which his right hand rests, while in his left hand, placed upon the arm of the chair, are the keys of the Tower, of which Lord Napier was Constable. It is animated and expressive, and, allowing for the effects of time and military service, an excellent likeness of the subject.

MR. P. BURNE JONES has painted a small whole-length portrait of Lord Rayleigh, standing in his laboratory, and busy with a retort which, with a number of other glass vessels about it, occupies a table before a window. On our left, in front of the picture, is a large kettle-drum intended for acoustic experiments. Lord Rayleigh is bareheaded, in profile to our left, and in his shirt-sleeves. The likeness is good, and the picture shows careful study of the effect of confined and softened light and strong contrasting shadows. The execution is solid, faithful, and minute. Mr. P. Burne Jones has made considerable progress with a small whole-length portrait of Mr. Watts standing on the scaffold which supports the colossal group of a hero and his horse which has long occupied the artist, as described in these columns some time ago. The long white blouse Mr. Watts wears and the group being of plaster of Paris make this what is commonly called a study in white. The apparatus, pulleys, galleries, and platform of the studio have been introduced with good feeling for the picturesque. These portraits are intended for the New Gallery next year.

MR. GEORGE SIMONDS has nearly completed a fine and animated life-size bust of Mr. Walter Crane, which is intended for the Century Guild, of which the latter artist is the first President.

A CONSIDERABLE number of the antique bronzes in the British Museum are being rearranged in chronological sequence, commencing with the earliest examples, which are mostly Etruscan, from the First Bronze Room. A beginning has already been made by placing in order the relics discovered in 1839 in the Polledrara Tomb, near Vulci, and acquired by the Museum in 1850, but never till now arranged in an instructive manner. They are in one of the projecting wall cases, and comprise (1) a bottle on which the blundered hieroglyphics of Psammetichus I. attest that it was not made in Egypt; (2) ostrich eggs engraved with Phœnician patterns, whole-length figures of warriors wearing Greek armour and weapons and marching in order rapidly, and Greek letters intended to indicate to the silversmith where he must place the metal mountings of the eggs; (3) a diadem of gold, evidently Etruscan, and enriched with patterns in *repoussé*; (4) earthenware vases evidently from Naucratis, in the Delta of the Nile, with very early Greek and Phœnician decorations; (5) a quaint figure of bronze plates riveted together, and in its form closely resembling those quaint, so-called prehistoric statuettes in terra-cotta which were found in Cyprus by General di Cesnola, and by other explorers elsewhere; and (6) bronze braziers on wheels.

AMONG the recent acquisitions of the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities is a large crater of the beginning of the second century B.C., painted with a subject of the infant Hercules strangling the snakes in the presence of a number of deities. There can be no doubt that it is a sort of sketch from the famous picture by Zeuxis described by Pliny, whose account of the work has been misunderstood by the German antiquaries, who, by dividing the sentence into two, imagined two paintings where one was referred to. On the vase Apollo appears in the centre of the composition, having, in the Isthmian fashion, his long locks in ringlets, a trait which localizes the work itself as due to the Theban school. On our left is a group of Jupiter enthroned and accosted by Alcmena, who is trembling with intense anxiety for the

children whose peril, notwithstanding his share in her offspring, the god regards with much less interest than the sumptuous charms of the lady. In front of the design, as if on the earth below the feet of the gods, are Hercules and his half-brother: the former valiantly clutches his serpent by the throat, and the great reptile, with jaws wide open revealing its fangs, buckles in agony on the floor; the latter, much alarmed, jumps up to run away from his assailant. The white-haired nurse stoops over her charge as if to rescue the boys. Athens is near this group, and grasps the dove of vicarious sacrifice by its wings, exactly as she does on the Harpy Tomb; probably this refers to the purification of Alcmena after child-bearing.

THE results of M. Grébaud's excavations at Mitrahenny during the past months are five statues of kings of ancient dynasties, together with the cartouche of a hitherto unknown queen.

M. NAVILLE, who has arranged to be in Egypt next month, proposes excavating at Echnass-el-Medineh.

MAJOR A. PALMA DI CESNOLA, F.S.A., under whose superintendence extensive explorations were carried out in Cyprus from 1876 to 1879, intends very soon to undertake another tour in the East, with a view to conducting further excavations and researches (in spots of which he has already some information) for the acquisition of antiquities, which will be forwarded to England and equitably distributed among those who subscribe towards the expense of the undertaking.

THE Greek Museum of Candia has recently acquired two singular sepulchral urns in terracotta found at Milatos, and belonging to the Mycenaean epoch. They have the form of *asamithoi* or *louteres*, and one of them is adorned with pictures, in dark red, both within and without, the patterns being geometrical (serpentine or reticulated), vegetable (palmettes), or lastly, motives from the animal kingdom (little fishes swimming). Similar urns were found in Crete on two other sites—at Pentamodi, near Candia, and in Messara, near Gortyna; but outside of Crete urns of this particular shape have not hitherto been found, if we may except the fragment found at Tiryns by Dr. Schliemann. Some archaic vases from Prinia have also been acquired, the discovery of which points to a site called Patella, a hill with a levelled top near the centre of the island, on the road between Candia and Gortyna, where there was evidently an ancient Cretan city of unknown name. The acropolis commands the valley of Malevryzi, and the peasants have already brought in hence tracings of fragments of inscriptions as old as the most ancient found at Gortyna. The pedestal of an imperial statue from Gortyna has been bought, bearing the name of an artist hitherto unknown, "Athenaios, son of Dionysios of Paros." A statue of a Roman empress, personifying Demeter, still remains at Gortyna in private hands, also bearing the name of an artist not hitherto known to us, "Eisidotos the Athenian." These inscriptions will be published in facsimile and the urns illustrated in phototype in the forthcoming number of the *Museo Italiano*. The Greek Syllogos at Candia has at length succeeded in obtaining possession of the very important inscription of unknown language, supposed to be Phrygian, discovered a few years ago at Presos.

MUSIC

THE WEEK.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Saturday Concerts.
ST. JAMES'S HALL.—Monday Popular Concerts.

ANOTHER well-arranged programme was offered at the Crystal Palace last Saturday, and Mr. Manns had again the satisfaction

of seeing the concert-room quite full. No instrumental novelties were brought forward, but Mr. and Mrs. Henschel introduced two items from the recently published supplemental volume of Beethoven's works. The humorous song 'Mit Mädchen sich vertragen' had already been heard at one of the Henschel Symphony Concerts. The other trifle was a *Lied* for soprano with harp accompaniment, written for a drama called 'Leonora Prohaska,' by one of Beethoven's friends. It is of the utmost simplicity, but very pretty, and was, of course, charmingly sung by Mrs. Henschel. The instrumental soloists on this occasion were Miss Ethel and Master Harold Bauer, of whose exceptional talents we have frequently spoken. In Saint-Saëns's Pianoforte Concerto in a minor Miss Bauer displayed admirable technique and a powerful tone, but it was a pity to waste so much ability on music of comparatively little value. The same remark will apply to the rendering of Vieuxtemps's Fantasia Appassionata for violin by Master Bauer. The executive difficulties of the work were not in every instance perfectly overcome, and it would be most unfortunate if these young performers, who have the making of artists, should develop into mere *virtuosi*. Haydn's bright Symphony in a flat, No. 9 of the Salomon set, which had not been heard at a Saturday Concert for twelve years, opened the concert; and it was closed by a group of Wagnerian selections, which were no doubt instrumental in drawing the large attendance. They comprised the poetical *Lied* 'Träume,' beautifully sung and accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Henschel; the Vorspiel to 'Parsifal,' taken at a far quicker pace than at Bayreuth; 'Wotan's Abschied' and the 'Feuerzauber' from 'Die Walküre'; and the Overture to 'Tannhäuser.'

The quiet opening of the Monday Popular Concerts contrasted with the excitement occasioned a year ago by the extraordinary performances of little Josef Hofmann. Concerning most of the programme on Monday there is really nothing to say. The concerted works were Beethoven's Quartet in c, Op. 59, No. 3, and Schumann's Pianoforte Trio in d minor, Op. 63, the executants being the same as in many former years, namely, Madame Néruda (Lady Halle), Messrs. Ries, Straus, and Piatti, and Miss Fanny Davies. The pianist rendered Beethoven's Variations in e flat on a theme from the 'Eroica' Symphony with very great skill. It was a sound intellectual performance, and the great difficulties of the work were fully mastered, save in the thirteenth variation. Madame Néruda introduced three of Dr. Mackenzie's violin pieces mentioned last week, namely, the 'Benedictus,' the 'Berceuse,' and the 'Saltarello.' They all proved remarkably effective, and certainly constitute a valuable addition to violin chamber music. As usual Miss Liza Lehmann was highly acceptable as the vocalist. She first sang the air "Willst du dein Herz mir schenken?" which was for some time attributed to Friedemann Bach, and is now set down to Giovannini, and afterwards a couple of tasteful and pleasing songs of her own composition. There were several demands for encores, but in no instance were they complied with. This reform should be maintained.

Musical Gossip.

HANDEL's oratorio 'Joshua,' one of the most unjustly neglected of the composer's works, will be performed at Shoreditch Town Hall on Monday evening next by the Borough of Hackney Choral Association. Though a few movements from it have been given on the selection days at various Handel Festivals, this noble oratorio has not been heard in London for more than forty years. Its last performance by the Sacred Harmonic Society was in 1847. As it contains not only some of Handel's grandest choral writing, but several of his most beautiful songs, its revival will doubtless possess special interest for amateurs. Mr. Prout has written additional accompaniments for the oratorio, and the soloists will be Miss Annie Marriott, Miss Hilda Wilson, Mr. Gawthrop, and Mr. Brereton.

MISS MATHILDE WURM gave a pianoforte recital at the Princes' Hall last Saturday afternoon. With the exception of Beethoven's Sonata in d, Op. 10, No. 3, her programme consisted entirely of small pieces, and included nothing worthy of remark. Miss Lena Little contributed some songs.

At the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford, yesterday week was performed an exercise for the degree of Mus.Doc. by the Rev. John H. Mee, who had selected the text of the Roman Catholic mass as the subject upon which to exercise his skill. The requirements for the Mus.Doc. degree including eight-part writing, Mr. Mee has laid out his work for a double choir in addition to four solo voices. It is hardly too much to assert that the majority of exercises written for musical degrees smell very strongly of the lamp; it is pleasant to be able to add that Mr. Mee's mass, while abounding in scholastic device, is by no means deficient in evidences of real musical feeling. Whatever fault may be found with it, it is at any rate not dry; and several of the movements, especially the "Et incarnatus," the "Benedictus," and the final "Dona nobis," possess real charm. The "Kyrie eleison" is also an excellent movement, but it is too long, and would gain much by judicious curtailment. The fugal writing is excellent and remarkably free from stiffness, even in the most artificial combinations, while the orchestration is judicious and well balanced. A curious point in the work is Mr. Mee's almost studied avoidance of the minor key. Of the twelve movements of the mass only one (the "Agnus Dei") begins in the minor, and even that ends in the relative major. Taken as a whole the mass deserves high commendation as a successful attempt to combine the claims of art with those of science; and it may be said without hesitation that the new Doctor of Music has proved himself fully worthy of his degree. The performance was admirable throughout. The solos were sung by Miss Anna Williams, Miss Hilda Wilson, Mr. Harper Kearton, and Mr. Watkin Mills, while the chorus consisted of 160 members of the Leeds Festival choir, trained by Mr. Alfred Broughton, their singing being worthy of their reputation. An excellent orchestra, led by Mr. G. H. Betjemann, was brought down from London. The composer conducted his own work, which was warmly received by a crowded audience, including many well-known London musicians.

ON Thursday the Finsbury Choral Society will perform Dr. Bridge's cantata 'Callirhoe' for the first time in London, under the direction of the composer.

THE programme of Sir Charles Halle's concert at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, last Thursday evening, included Bizet's suite 'Roma,' the overtures to 'Parisina' (Bennett) and 'Ruy Blas,' and Mozart's Concerto in e flat, played by Sir Charles Halle.

BERLIOZ's opera 'Benvenuto Cellini' was revived on the 28th ult. at Weimar. The performance, under the direction of Herr E. Lassen,

is said to have been excellent. The same work was produced for the first time at Dresden on the 4th inst.

The jury of the Musical Exhibition at Bologna have awarded a gold medal to the Musical Museum of Milan for its fine collection exhibited, and particularly for its splendid series of Japanese instruments. Gold medals have also been awarded to Signor Cesare de Sanctis, of Rome, for his treatise on 'Polyphony in Modern Art,' and to Signor P. E. Ferrari for his book on dramatic-lyrical performances at Parma from 1628 to 1883.

SIGNOR POMPEO CAMBIASI will shortly publish at Milan a history of La Scala, the most celebrated opera-house in the whole of Italy.

CONCERTS, &c., NEXT WEEK.

- MON. Borough of Hackney Choral Association, Handel's 'Joshua,' 8, Shoreditch Town Hall.
 — Popular Concert, 8.30, St. James's Hall.
 TUES. Patti Concert, 8, Albert Hall.
 — First London Symphony Concert, 8.30, St. James's Hall.
 WED. Miss Florence Smart's Concert, 7.45, Steinway Hall.
 — First London Rallied Concert, 8, St. James's Hall.
 THURS. Herr Waldemar Mayer's Orchestral Concert, 8, St. James's Hall.
 — Flusbury Choral Association, Dr. Bridge's 'Callirhoe,' 8, Holloway Hall.
 FRI. Miss Winifred Parker's Concert, 8, St. James's Hall.
 SAT. Crystal Palace Concert, 3.
 — Popular Concert, 3, St. James's Hall.

DRAMA

Great Writers.—*Life of William Congreve.*
 By Edmund Gosse, M.A. (Scott.)

AN American literary journal has just assured its readers that Congreve has a "niche in the Valhalla of Ben Jonson." The remark is injudicious, of course, even for a literary American, and there is no apparent reason why it should ever have got itself uttered. It is probably the unluckiest thing that ever was said of Congreve, who—with some unimportant exceptions—has been singularly fortunate in his critics and biographers. Dryden wrote of him with enthusiasm, and in doing so he may be said to have set a fashion of admiration which is vigorous and captivating even yet. Swift, Voltaire, Lamb, Hazlitt, Thackeray, Macaulay, to name but these, have dealt with him in their several ways, and of late he has been praised by such masters of the art of writing as Mr. Swinburne and Mr. George Meredith. Mr. Gosse, the last upon the list, surpasses most of his predecessors in admiration, and all, or nearly all, in knowledge. His book, indeed, is one of the best—if not actually the best—of the series to which it belongs. It sets forth with all possible propriety and a good deal of new material the facts of the poet's life; it presents a complete account of his plays, with not a little sound criticism as to his place in art and his extraordinary and varied excellences as a writer; it includes what is certainly the fullest and the fairest history of the Jeremy Collier controversy which has yet been printed. In brief, it is good work, and Mr. Gosse is to be heartily congratulated on its achievement.

It is no fault of Mr. Gosse's that, with all his diligence, he has failed to give a complete and striking picture of the man, or to make more of what he describes as his "smiling, faultless rotundity." As he puts it a sentence or two before, "there were no salient points about Congreve's character," so that "no vagaries, no escapades place him in a ludicrous or in a human light," and "he passes through the literary life of his time as if in felt slippers, noiseless, unupbraiding, without personal adventures." That, we take it, is absolutely

true. It is known that Congreve was cheerful, serviceable, and witty; that he was a man of many friends; that Pope dedicated his *liad* to him; that Dryden loved and admired him; that Collier attacked his work, and that his rejoinder to Collier was equally spiritless and ill-bred; that he was attached to Mrs. Bracegirdle, and left all his money to the Duchess of Marlborough; that he was a creditable Government official; and that, having written a certain number of plays, he suddenly at thirty ceased from production, lost his interest in life and art, and wrote no more. But that is about all that is known of him. Thackeray's picture of him may be, and probably is, as unvarnished as his Fielding or his Dick Steele; but there is little or nothing to show how far we can depend upon it. The character of the man escapes us, and we have either to refrain from trying to see him, or to be content with mere hypothesis and speculation. So odd and abnormal is the mystery in which he is enshrouded that what in the case of other men would be notorious remains in his dubious and obscure, so that we cannot tell whether he was Bracegirdle's lover or only her friend, and the secret of his relations with the Duchess of Marlborough has yet to be discovered. If patience in research and skill in the arrangement of results were anything in this connexion, Mr. Gosse's work would be enough. But Mr. Gosse has failed, as we have said, with those who went before him. No more than they has he succeeded in plucking out the heart of Congreve's mystery. He was, and he remains, impersonal. At his most solid and substantial he is (as some one has said of him) but "vagueness personified"; at his most luminous an appearance only, like the *Scin-lasca*, the shining shadow adapted in a moment of peculiar inspiration by the late Lord Lytton.

It is otherguess work with the writer. We have the plays, and who runs may read and admire. We say advisedly, who runs may read, and not who will may see. Congreve's plays are, we can imagine, as dull to look at as they are entertaining to read. They have dropped out of the *répertoire*, and the truth is they are worthy of no better fate. They are only plays to the critic of style; to the actor and the average spectator they are merely so much weariness in print. To begin with, they are marked by such a deliberate and immitigable baseness of morality as makes them impossible to man. Wycherley has done more vilely; Vanbrugh has reached to higher altitudes of filthiness. But neither Wycherley nor Vanbrugh has any strain of the admirable intellectual quality of Congreve. Villainy comes natural to the one, and filthiness drops from the other as easily as honey from the comb; but in neither is there evident that admirable effort of the intelligence which is a distinguishing characteristic of Congreve, and with neither is the result at once so consummate and so tame. For the truth is both Wycherley and Vanbrugh are playwrights, and Congreve is not. Congreve is only an artist in style, writing for himself and half a dozen in the pit, while Wycherley and Vanbrugh (and for that matter Etherege and Farquhar) are playwrights, producing for the whole theatre. Mr. Gosse has analyzed his Con-

greve with ever so much intelligence and care; but he has let his "enthusiasm of biographer" run away with him, and has failed to recognize that Congreve's plays were only successful in proportion as they were less literary and "Congrevian." His first comedy was the talk of the town; his last, 'The Way of the World,' that model of characterization (of a kind) and fine English, was only a "success of esteem." The reason is not far to seek. Congreve's plays, as it appears to us, were too sordid in conception and too unamusing in effect even for the audiences to which they were produced; they were excellent literature, but they were bad theatre, and they were innately detestable to boot. Audiences are the same in all strata of time; and it is easy to see that Wycherley's *Horner* and Vanbrugh's *Sir John* and *Lady Brute* were amusing, when *Lady Wishfort* and *Sir Sampson Legend* and the illustrious and impossible *Maskwell* were found "old, cold, withered, and of intolerable entrails." An audience, whatever its epoch, wants action, and still action, and again (and for the last time) action; also it wants a point of departure that shall be something tainted with humanity, a touch of the human in the term of everything, and a "sort of a kind of a strain" of humanity, at least, in the progress of events from the one point to the other. This, as it seems to us, it gets in Wycherley, brute as he is; it gets the same, with a far larger and more vigorous comic sense, in Vanbrugh; it gets it, with a difference, in the light-hearted indecencies of Farquhar. From the magnificent prose of Congreve it is absent. His it was to artificialize all that was most artificial in an artificial state of society; he was (in other words) the consummate artist of a phase that was merely transient, the laureate of a generation that was only alive for half an hour in the course of all the twenty-four. He is saved from oblivion by sheer strength of style. It is a bad dramatic style, as we know; it leaves the Witwouds and the Plyants as admirable as the Mirabels and Milamants and Angelicas; it makes no distinction between the Mrs. Foresights and the Sir Sampson Legends; it presents an exemplar as in *Lady Wishfort* and an exemplar in *Petulant*; it is uneasy, self-conscious, intrusive, even offensive, the very reverse of dramatic; and in Congreve's hands it is irresistible, for, thanks to Congreve, it has been forced from the stage, and lives as literature alone. This, we are obliged to say, Mr. Gosse has not perceived. His enthusiasm is so large that he is able to criticize his author as though he were not one in the pit, but the whole house; to ignore the ineradicable turpitude of his author's view of life, and contrast Congreve with Molière, a little to Molière's disadvantage! Here, it is interesting to note, he is more "advanced" than Mr. Meredith himself. Mr. Meredith has a sense of something better and more beautiful than mere epigram; and though Congreve is what he tries to be and cannot, and Molière is what he ought to be and will not, it is to Molière that he gives his vote. Mr. Gosse is lighter and less literary. He goes out of his way, indeed, to compare his author with Molière on grounds where comparison is impossible.

"His plays," says he, with an engaging—and misleading—generosity of mind, "were never really well made, in the modern sense, but no more are those of Molière or Shakspeare." He should have reflected that, while Shakspeare and Molière both keep the stage, and Congreve has disappeared into the darkness of the closet, it is hardly fair in this connexion to compare Shakspeare with Molière, much less to bracket Congreve with Molière and Shakspeare. Congreve was essentially a man of letters; his style (as Mr. Gosse has failed to note) is that of a pupil, not of Molière, but of the full, the rich, the excessive, the pedantic Ben Jonson; his *Legends*, his *Wishforts*, his *Foresights* are the lawful heirs—refined and sublimated, but still directly descended—of the *Tuccas*, and the *Bobadils*, and the *Epicure Mammons* of the great Elizabethan; they are (that is to say) more literary than theatrical—they are excellent reading, but they have long since fled the stage, and vanished into the night of mere scholarship. To compare an author of this type and descent with Shakspeare is, as it seems to us, a trifle unfair; to compare him with Molière is to misapprehend the differences between literature and drama. Congreve, as we have said, has disappeared from the boards, and is only tolerable, or even intelligible, to the ardent reader; while Shakspeare worked on so imperfect a convention that, though he keeps the stage and is known, indeed, for the poet of the most popular play ever written (for that, we take it, 'Hamlet' is), he is yet the prey of every twopenny actor, or actor-manager, or actor-manager-editor, who is driven to deal with him. Molière, on the other hand, wrote as one who was primarily a great actor; who dealt not so much with what is transient in human life as with what is eternal in human nature; who addressed himself much more to an audience (Fénelon, who found fault with his style, is witness to the fact) than to a circle of readers. And the result is that Molière not only remains better reading (as Mr. Meredith has said) than Congreve, but is played at this time in the Rue de Richelieu line for line and word for word as he was played at the Palais Bourbon over two hundred years ago. This Mr. Gosse has not perceived, and for this he has not allowed. In that new edition of his book which must surely come to us, he will do well to make the correction and acknowledge the mistake.

THE WEEK.

PRINCESS.—'Hands across the Sea,' a Drama in Five Acts. By Henry Pettitt.

'HANDS ACROSS THE SEA' is a commonplace melodrama built upon familiar lines. It promises at the outset to be somewhat more. Its opening scene, though diffuse, is pleasing, and the notion of showing the links which connect England with her great colony is happy. The play has, moreover, a certain amount of novelty, in that the trials of the hero and heroine begin after marriage. At the outset the lovers are single, and some anxiety is created as to the nature of the obstacles which will keep them apart through five acts. No intention of separating them animates Mr. Pettitt. Diffi-

culties only arise to be surmounted, and at the opening of the second act Jack Dudley is wedded to his sweetheart, and is living with her in Paris. As it is necessary to plunge him in trouble, he is kind enough himself to furnish means. He allows himself to be led into the commonest and most conventional forms of dissipation, and hugs to his heart as a friend the man of all others he has most cause to mistrust. Folly such as this deprives a man of all claim upon sympathy, and the spectator is neither much moved nor much astonished when so simple-minded and naïve a gentleman contrives to get himself convicted of a murder which has, in fact, been committed by his arch enemy. For this he is condemned to the guillotine. The action which follows is an unpardonable travesty of legal proceedings in France. A spy is put upon a man after his conviction, and within a few minutes of the time fixed for execution of the sentence upon him. When the new-comer is all but slain by the previous inmate of the cell, two guardians in whose charge both prisoners are watch contentedly the struggle, anxious only that no interruption of the fight shall take place. The order for execution arrives, and the English prisoner, unarmed as he is, knocks over, one after another, the gaolers and soldiers, and, seizing a sword, all but makes his escape. He would be shot, but at this moment his wife runs up with a respite. These proceedings, it may be said, are supposed to take place in the prison of La Roquette. Treatment poorer than this is not easily conceived. The ground lost during these two silly acts is recovered in the two which succeed. Of these the earlier shows a large Australian steamboat within a few hours of Sydney. On board are all the principal characters except the hero, and he, having escaped from New Caledonia, is taken on board. The commander of a French gunboat demands him, and is refused in the old patriotic style by the captain. The concluding act gives a pretty view of the harbour of Sydney. Here poetical justice is administered in a fashion which is at once summary and surprising, but which is accepted by the audience as wholly satisfactory. So far as regards the public, indeed, the play was never in doubt. It was received with enthusiasm, and no sound of dissent mingled with the cheers of the audience. None the less, 'Hands across the Sea' is a poor work, that cannot be compared with the best of its author's productions.

A remarkable piece of realistic acting by Mr. Pateman in the last act, in which he gave a representation of death from epilepsy, was the chief feature in the performance. Mr. Henry Neville acted, however, with ebullient gallantry as the hero, Miss Mary Rorke was tender as the heroine, and other parts were played more or less satisfactorily by Miss Webster, Messrs. Garden, Abingdon, Cross, and Morell.

THE FOLIOS OF JONSON AND SHAKSPEARE.

WHEN I wrote my letter, my observations were purposely confined to the facts that so-called folios previous to 1700 were chiefly signed as sextos, sometimes as quartos or octavos, rarely as true folios. Even in one sentence

(wrongly as I now see) I spoke purposely in the language usually employed of sheets folded in sextos, reserving some points, which had presented themselves to me, for a future letter. It was impossible for one, looking at a copy of Minshew 15½ by 9½ in.—and I make a not very unfrequent use of it—to suppose that such a leaf multiplied by six could ever have represented a sheet as it came from the hand-paper-makers of the day, and I am happy to be able to say that I mentioned this to a literary friend before last week's *Athenæum* had appeared. I had even thought over a practicable plan by which three compositors could each have set up one of three sheets "quird" in sexto simultaneously, that is allowing the space of an hour or less between them, and this also I mentioned to the same friend. One of the things I waited for was to ascertain at the British Museum whether—as I expected to find—each six leaved "quird" of Shakspeare's plays had water-marks on three of the leaves. I now see that my too great reticence, due to a desire to state each fact separately, has given rise to misapprehension. To Mr. F. Jenkinson, whom I would have liked to call courteous, but that his assumptions, his *ego* without even the *et rex meus* style, coupled with a manner not too cultured, forbid it—to him I would say that I am and was quite cognizant of the difference between "sheets" and technical "quirds." Also, that did I know him, I think I should still use my own discretion as to what, as regards Shakspeare, or any other author of that date, or as regards their books, I chose to publish and what I reserve for my "own note-book." I merely add that the folio quiring was not always confined to such thin volumes as has been supposed. One of my friend Stone's was a Camden's 'Britannia' of 1695; nor do I remember that any of his five were much, if anything, thinner. Hence I still hold to the opinion that if we have the terms folio, quarto, and the like, we ought also to have that of sexto, since none of them then denoted anything but the quiring.

BR. NICHOLSON, M.D.

MAY I be allowed to point out to Mr. Mansfield that in order to give an octavo leaf of 15 in. by 10 in. it is not necessary to assume a sheet of the gigantic dimensions which he supposes? As a matter of fact the sheet would be 30 in. by 40 in., just the size of our modern "quadruple crown." This, of course, is a "machine-made" paper; but a "hand-made" sheet of the same size would not be beyond the resources of modern mills. Whether it could have been produced in the sixteenth century, and whether, if it had been, any press could have been found to print it, may be doubted.

A. J. BUTLER.

Dramatic Gossip.

A VERSION of 'Barbara Philpot,' the novel of the Hon. Lewis Wingfield, will, it is said, succeed 'La Tosca' at the Garrick Theatre. In the dramatization of his work the author has been assisted by Mr. H. A. Jones. Mrs. Bernard Beere will, it is believed, play the heroine.

A FARCE by Mr. Sapte, entitled 'That Telegram,' was produced on Monday at the Globe, with Mr. Forbes Dawson and Miss Helen Leyton in the principal parts.

UPON resigning the Lyceum to Mr. Irving Mr. Mansfield will take possession of the Globe, at which house he will continue his representations of 'Prince Karl.' A revival for afternoons of Mr. Saville Clarke's adaptation of 'Alice in Wonderland' is also said to be in contemplation.

The performance of 'The Widow Winsome,' by Mr. Alfred Calmour, is fixed for the afternoon of the 27th inst. at the Criterion. Miss Kate Rorke, Miss Laura Linden, Messrs. Conway, Farren, Giddens, and F. Thomas will be

comprised in the cast. A new comedietta will, it is anticipated, be given on the same occasion by Mr. Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore.

MR. JAMES MORTIMER'S comedy 'The Alderman,' played once at an afternoon performance at the Criterion, is to be given at what is now called the Jodrell Theatre.

THIS evening 'The Lady of Lyons,' with Miss Wallis as Pauline, Mr. Forbes Robertson as Claude Melnotte, and Mr. Mackintosh as Col. Damas, replaces 'As You Like It' at the Shaftesbury, and Mr. Hawtrey's new burlesque 'Atalanta' is produced at the Strand.

'THE BALLOON,' a three-act farcical comedy, by Messrs. Darnley and Manville Fenn, was produced on Tuesday afternoon at Terry's Theatre. It is a brisk and entertaining piece which will doubtless find its way into the regular bill at this or some other theatre. It was brightly acted by Mr. Glenney, Mr. Charles Groves, Mr. Forbes Dawson, and Misses Susie Vaughan, Florence Wood, and G. Goldney.

'CLARA SOLEIL,' a three-act comedy by MM. E. Gondinet and Pierre Civrac, is the latest novelty at the Royalty. It is a whimsical and well-constructed farce, first produced early in 1885 at the Vaudeville. The heroine is now played by Mdlle. Aimée Martial, and Mdlles. Charlotte Raynard and Dick are acceptable in other female characters. The male members of Mr. Mayer's company are, however, scarcely fitted to this class of piece, and the representation is not up to the average under this management.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—T. D.—C. W.—T. C. N.—A. A.—J.—T. K.—T. D.—B.—received.
W. S.—We cannot undertake to answer such questions. No notice can be taken of anonymous communications.

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